



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Inter-Arab Affairs

'Text' of Arab League Memorandum Issued to U.S.

JN1006185390 Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic
8 Jun 90 pp 1, 23

["Text" of Arab League memorandum to the United States delivered by Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi to U.S. Ambassador in Tunis Robert Pelletreau "last Wednesday" (30 May), as transmitted by the QATARI NEWS AGENCY, QNA]

[Text] Official Arab sides have been informed of the U.S. position as conveyed to the Arab League General Secretariat on 17 May 1990. These sides were astonished by the language in which the U.S. position was outlined. They also voiced their dissatisfaction with U.S. views on a number of issues. The most important points that can be made in this regard, in the hope that the U.S. position will be revised in a way that will bridge the gap between American and Arab viewpoints, can be summed up as follows:

Peace in the Middle East, within the framework of a more comprehensive global peace, is one of the objectives that Arab countries are eager to achieve. Therefore, the Arab countries stressed at the Baghdad summit "the need to convene the international conference for peace in the Middle East and to call on the United Nations, the UN Security Council, and the major powers to start preparing for this conference in accordance with the UN General Assembly resolutions."

The Baghdad summit also stressed support for the Palestinian peace initiative.

What the Arab countries expect from the United States, in view of its responsibility as a superpower and a permanent member of the UN Security Council, is that it support these serious moves to achieve peace and stop backing Israel's rejection of the international community's will and international law.

The Arab countries deal with all issues in a spirit of responsibility and in a constructive manner divorced from "rhetorical talk." They stress that pursuance of legitimate rights cannot in any way be described as a rhetorical, negative attitude.

It is worth mentioning here that the first generation of U.S. leaders fought the war of independence, led their people to freedom, and gave the world one of the most important charters on human rights in contemporary history by their insistence on justice and their enthusiasm for humanitarian values and ethics.

The Arab position on Middle East peace, as determined by previous summits and stressed by the one in Baghdad, is serious and responsible and will help provide a rare opportunity for peace if the United States employs its influence with Israel to convince it to change its policy, which violates international law.

The Arab countries believe that the strategic alliance between Israel and the United States; the size of military and economic aid and political support that Israel receives from the United States; and the fact that not enough efforts are being exerted to make Israel respect international law—all this has made Israel go too far and has convinced the world that the United States is supporting Israel in its current policy.

The position of the Arabs, including the PLO, on the Middle East has convinced the world of the sincerity of the Arab direction toward peace. This does not need any more affirmations, and large sectors of Israeli public opinion have become convinced of it.

With respect to the settlements, the Arab countries have more than once expressed their appreciation for the U.S. view that these settlements are illegal. The Arab countries hope that this stance will be substantiated in practical terms so that Israel will not use U.S. financial assistance to encourage settlement in the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories in implementation of the plan to establish Greater Israel, a plan announced by Yitzhaq Shamir which does not conform to international legality deeply embedded in the guarantees provided by the international community.

As for the intensive immigration to Israel, which takes place in the form of collective mass deportations as a result of U.S. efforts over many years, there is no doubt that this immigration is a flagrant violation of international conventions and laws, particularly the fourth Geneva convention of 1949, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Arab countries have every right to view this immigration as a new violation of the Palestinian people's rights, a threat to pan-Arab security, and a danger to the peace efforts.

The Arab stand on emigration is based on respect for the right of any emigrant, whoever he may be, to leave for any country of his choice, while denouncing the measures by any party to force the Jewish emigrant to go only to Israel. Had peace been established in the Middle East, had the Palestinian people regained their national rights, including their right to sovereignty and to the establishment of their independent state on their soil, the Arab countries would not have voiced their anxiety over Jewish immigration. The Arabs' anxiety currently stems from the conviction that this immigration harms the chances for peace in the region.

As for the threats to Iraq, the Arab countries do not agree with the U.S. viewpoint on this issue. Iraq is acting within the bounds of its sovereignty to enhance peace in the region. The new peace initiative Iraq addressed to the Iranian leaders is fresh proof of Iraq's belief in the importance of peace.

The Arab countries are astonished that the United States, the first country to have used nuclear weapons during World War II, denies Iraq the right to declare the possible use of the weapons in its possession to reply to any new aggression by Israel, which itself possesses all

types of destructive weapons it has received in the form of direct assistance from Western countries.

The Arab countries which reaffirmed their legitimate right to possess modern technology to develop their societies, reiterate their call for the proclamation of the Middle East as an area free of any type of mass destruction weapons. They hope that the United States will contribute to the attainment of this noble objective through the United Nations.

The Arab countries also do not understand the U.S. call for the expeditious conclusion of an agreement on chemical weapons while ignoring nuclear weapons. This enables Israel to continue threatening the countries in the region since it alone possesses weapons of mass destruction.

The Arab countries value the U.S. stance on Lebanon, one based on the safeguard of Lebanon's territorial integrity, preservation of its independence and sovereignty, support for the al-Ta'if agreement on national accord, and assistance to the constitutional legitimate authorities stemming from this agreement. The Arab countries hope that the United States will further enhance this positive stance by assuming a more effective role in obliging Israel to implement the UN Security Council resolutions calling for the withdrawal of the Israeli forces of occupation from all the occupied Lebanese territories, and the imposition of the Lebanese state's sovereignty over all the national Lebanese soil, given that the termination of the occupation is the necessary prelude for the attainment of a comprehensive solution to the Lebanese issue, not to mention that it is an essential element in safeguarding Lebanon's independence and sovereignty.

The Arab countries also believe that the United States must play a more effective role to force Israel to stop its repeated aggression against Lebanese territories in accordance with the fourth Geneva convention of 1949 and to lessen the Lebanese people's pains and hardship.

Regarding the hostages, all Arab countries, without exception, have in the past exerted all possible efforts to help end these tragedies. The Arab countries' position is clear and firm in denouncing these practices which contradict the principles and values of their civilization. This position was stressed in many meetings, particularly at the summit meetings.

As for mentioning the United States when touching on the important issues in the region, this is something that hinges on the desire of the United States of America itself. Israel, which occupies Arab territories, threatens the security of the neighboring states, and rejects the international community's will; in spite of all this, it enjoys a strategic alliance with the United States of America and receives all means of support, including the weapons that are used against women and children in the occupied Arab territories.

How can the Palestine question and the Israeli rejection of international efforts to achieve peace be dealt with without

a reference to the role played by the United States of America, which prevents the international community from denouncing and imposing sanctions on Israel through its unilateral, semi-permanent use of the veto.

Not mentioning the United States can be done if the United States abandons the policy of absolute bias in favor of Israel and opens a new page in its relations with the countries in the region on the basis of joint efforts to endeavor to implement the international resolutions on the Middle East.

The Arab countries expect the United States to make a connection between the aid given to Israel in any field and Israel's response to peace moves. Such a position would give credibility to U.S. policy in the Middle East and mark the beginning of a new era in the history of Arab-U.S. relations.

The Arab states confidently stress that such a change will bolster the role of the United States of America as a peace force, not only in the Middle East, but in the Third World as a whole. They hope such a change will be possible, taking into account the U.S. cultural heritage in the field of human rights and nation's rights and what has been offered to humanity as a whole by the heroes and intellectuals of freedom in the United States of America since independence.

Arab Envoys at UN Meet, Discuss Options

JN0706092990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1945 GMT
6 Jun 90

[Excerpt] United Nations, 6 Jun (INA)—Arab ambassadors to the United Nations held consultations today, Wednesday, on the new Arab move in the international organization following the United States veto of the UN Security Council resolution to send an international mission to the occupied Arab territories.

The Arab ambassadors held a meeting within the framework of the Arab group, and discussed the options available for such a move, including going back once again to the UN Security Council to revive a former draft resolution against Soviet Jewish emigration and settlements in the occupied Arab territories.

Diplomatic sources told INA that the other option open to the Arab group is to call on the UN General Assembly to hold an extraordinary session in Geneva in which Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat will participate, or to revive a previous resolution adopted by the the UN General Assembly in 1950 on holding a special extraordinary session on security and peace in the Middle East.

The Arab ambassadors agreed to task the Palestine committee to discuss all the available options and submit its recommendations to them at a meeting they will hold on Friday [8 June]. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

'Abd-Rabbuh Says Ending Dialogue Ends U.S. Role

JN0906075490 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
9 Jun 90 p 1

[By Lamis K. Andoni]

[Text] Amman—A senior Palestinian official warned Friday [8 June] that any American decision to cut off its dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) will disqualify Washington from playing a constructive role in the peace process and will provide a green light to an escalation of Israel's moves aimed at suppressing the Palestinian uprising.

"Such a decision will amount to an American declaration that it is unable to play a positive and constructive role in the Middle East peace process," PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh told the JORDAN TIMES. "But doing so, the American administration would be succumbing to the Israeli right and, determined to exclude the PLO, will look for an alternative representative for the Palestine people," said 'Abd-Rabbuh, who headed the Palestinian side to the 17-month-old dialogue.

The Palestinian official's statements came amid contradictory reports from Washington about the American administration's decision to suspend the dialogue in response to an aborted naval attack against Israel by the tiny Palestine Liberation Front.

The PLO Executive Committee, which met in Baghdad last week, issued a strong worded statement accusing the U.S. of "protecting Israel and its crimes."

In the interview with the JORDAN TIMES, 'Abd-Rabbuh indicated that the PLO was still determined not to comply to American conditions regardless of the American reaction.

In the PLO's view, the American attitude towards the dialogue will reflect the U.S. strategy in the Middle East rather than a reaction to the thwarted seaborne raid.

"The U.S. will have to make a choice: It will either opt to play a constructive role in the Middle East process or disqualify itself from such a role and provide a green light for a wide scale Israeli suppression (of the intifadah)," 'Abd-Rabbuh said.

If the U.S. chose to suspend the dialogue, 'Abd-Rabbuh predicted, "it will encourage a fierce Israeli crackdown on the Palestinians and an unlimited massive influx of Jewish immigrants to Israel."

The Palestinian official, who had initially staunchly defended the dialogue, said that the U.S. was going back to its "pre-dialogue strategy by pursuing its own efforts to find an alternative for the PLO."

"They expected us to agree, through the dialogue, to exclude ourselves and even bless a substitute, but when they failed they are going back to their old strategy by trying to find such an alternative on their own," he said with an unconcealed amount of cynicism.

He reiterated that the PLO was determined to seek a tough Arab stand in accordance with the extraordinary Baghdad Arab summit resolutions against any country which expresses hostility towards Palestinian rights.

The summit, which concluded May 30, committed the Arab governments to take political and economic measures against countries which facilitate Jewish immigration "to Palestine and the other occupied Arab territories."

The summit called on a meeting for the Arab foreign and finance ministers within two months to discuss the Arab attitude towards Jewish immigration. The decision clearly implied the possibility of imposing economic sanctions against countries which facilitate Jewish immigration to Israel.

'Abd-Rabbuh revealed that the PLO will call for the Arab foreign and finance ministers to meet in "the very near future."

"The PLO wants this meeting to take place as soon as possible to discuss the Jewish immigration and the U.S. position," he said.

PLO officials have been urging Arab governments to counter the U.S. position, particularly the American veto last week of United Nations Security Council resolution calling for the despatch of a fact-finding mission to the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Since then the PLO has been trying, in coordination with other European countries, to find an alternative formula which aims at creating a mechanism to protect the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

'Abd-Rabbuh disclosed that the PLO was trying to move the discussions on the issue to the General Assembly to avoid an American veto at the Security Council. He said that the Arab countries at the General Assembly will launch a campaign for an alternative resolution under the slogan of "united for peace."

"Moving the discussions to the General Assembly will enable us to secure an alternative resolution with the same authority," 'Abd-Rabbuh said.

Analysts noted that such a move will also test the support of the PLO from the Eastern European countries which used to consistently support the PLO at the General Assembly prior to the recent anti-communist upheavals in Eastern Europe.

Khalaf Urges Arabs To Plan for Defense*JN1206201390 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic
1823 GMT 12 Jun 90*

[Text] Brother Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf], Fatah Central Committee member, has stressed that the new Zionist government under the terrorist Yitzhaq Shamir will lead the region toward real massacres.

In an interview with the Tunis-based weekly AL-BAYAN [name of publication as heard] published yesterday, Brother Abu-Iyad urged the Arab nation to prepare for the defense of its territories by drafting a plan to prevent the enemy from striking first against the intifadah, and then attacking Jordan and striking against Iraq.

PFLP-GC's Jibril on Hostages, Lockerbie*JN1206115040 Kuwait AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI
in Arabic 11 Jun 90 p 6*

[Interview with Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, by Patrick Seale in Damascus—date not given]

[Text] [Seale] Could you confirm rumors that a new deal to exchange hostages is being negotiated?

[Jibril] The world might within the next few months witness a new hostage exchange deal in which we will have a big role. We have asked all organizations and factions to furnish us with lists of their Israeli-held men, regardless of their political affiliations.

No Israeli prisoner held by Hizballah, including the Israeli pilot, will be released without the approval of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC]. On the Palestinian level, we will have the first say in this regard.

Three Israelis are held, and the three—a pilot and two others—are alive and are held by Hizballah and its supporters.

[Seale] How many of your men are in Israeli prisons?

[Jibril] I do not have a specific number, but there are scores of them. Once you add to them those who are loyal to us and those responsible for the intifadah, the figure will be much higher and might jump to thousands. Any PFLP-GC member arrested by the Israelis, even if he is not convicted of any military operation, will be sentenced to 9-12 years. This is the price for belonging to the PFLP-GC. The Israelis always say their real enemy is the PFLP-GC. I can humbly tell you that 60 percent of the Israeli losses bear the mark of the PFLP-GC and the Israelis are well aware of this.

[Seale] Your good relations with Iran will undoubtedly help in any new deal to exchange hostages.

[Jibril] There is no doubt that this will have a role.

[Seale] Do you approve of hostage taking?

[Jibril] Never in our history have we taken a single hostage. We only take soldiers in battle as prisoners. Twice we negotiated the exchange of our prisoners with those of the enemy through the International Committee of the Red Cross and other international organizations. Once in 1979 and then in 1985. In the second [1985] we secured the release of 1,150 prisoners from the enemy prisons. What is important in this bargain, which the Israelis called disgraceful because they were forced to comply with our demands, is that we insisted on the release of 600 of our best fedayeen, some of whom were sentenced to 100 years in prison and others to death.

The other condition was that these men should stay in the occupied territories, in their villages and with their families, and should not be deported. The released men were the ones who directly inspired the intifadah. The day of their release was a happy day for our people in Palestine and unprecedented since 1948.

[Seale] Could you elaborate on the new exchange deal, or is this premature?

[Jibril] It is premature.

[Seale] Your name is often connected with the Lockerbie issue. It is also said that the Iranians had reason to destroy the plane in retaliation for the downing of their airbus over the Gulf, and that you helped them in this because you have good relations with them?

[Jibril] I, Ahmad Jibril, PFLP-GC secretary general, announce that relations with Iran do exist because Islamic Iran supports us in our struggle. Why is Europe allowed to have relations with Iran, and we are not? Why does the United States search for justifications to resume relations with Iran? How can one interpret President Bush himself picking up the telephone when he thought President Rafsanjani was on the other end? Iran supports our struggle to regain our territory from the enemy.

[Seale] What about Iranian retaliation for the airbus incident?

[Jibril] The criminal views everyone as a possible retaliator for the crime he perpetrated.

[Seale] Do you condone blowing up the plane?

[Jibril] I am against killing civilians wherever they may be. Throughout the 25 years of our open fedayeen activity—in fact, over the past 31 years of our existence—we have not killed civilians in any place in the world. We fight for freedom, and we fight against the Israelis who occupy our homeland. Just imagine, the Americans accused us of perpetrating the Lockerbie incident only a few hours after it occurred, and even before they made any investigations. We have said several times that the PFLP-GC had nothing to do with this incident. We also said that Mosad was behind it. Mosad and the Zionists wanted to tarnish the reputation of the Palestinians and their movement. They also sought to divert world attention from our cause. In fact, the history of Zionism is full of such terrorist acts. For

example, one of the Shamir government's ministers, Yitzhaq Moda'i, was dispatched to Baghdad in 1948 to attack Jewish targets with bombs with the objective of encouraging Jews to escape to Israel, and of making it appear as if the Arabs were responsible for the explosions. The PFLP-GC asked the U.S. and European intelligence to prove our involvement in the Lockerbie incident, but there is no proof whatsoever, and what is there is only circumstantial evidence. We challenge all sides to provide specific proof of our involvement.

[Seale] Is the tool that was found with al-Dalqamuni in Germany circumstantial evidence?

[Jibril] Hafiz al-Dalqamuni is a PFLP-GC member, and he is a great revolutionary. He spent 12 years in Israeli prisons. He is from Nazareth in the Galilee, and he was carrying out an operation against the Israelis. The PFLP-GC instructed him to transfer weapons from West Germany to Palestine via ports [unspecified]. You may wonder, why Germany? Our people in the occupied territories want German-made cars, particularly used Mercedes because they are somewhat cheap. So, we exploited this to dispatch weapons hidden in the cars via Haifa and Ashdod ports. What I am saying now is that we used the Germans. This was the mission of al-Dalqamuni. He was arrested along with 13 members of our front. They were all released with the exception of al-Dalqamuni and another man. Al-Dalqamuni was arrested two months before the Lockerbie incident. When he was arrested, the German police seized a large quantity of weapons; kalashnikovs, hand grenades, pistols, and other tools. In fact, terrorist activity does not require such large amounts of weapons. The Germans are convinced that the weapons had been hidden there for years.

[Seale] Do you mean that al-Dalqamuni was hiding these weapons to smuggle them to Israel?

[Jibril] Yes. However, the task was not easy, as he only managed to send one or two weapons there every month. The Germans reached the conclusion that the weapons they seized were not used and had been kept hidden in the warehouse.

When Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' went to the FRG, he asked the FRG interior minister whether al-Dalqamuni and his comrades were involved in the Lockerbie incident, and the FRG minister replied by saying that they had nothing whatsoever to do with the incident and that any British or U.S. intelligence report claiming otherwise is untrue.

[Seale] Were they not charged with attempting to attack U.S. military trains?

[Jibril] They were charged with this. However, this remained an accusation. There is no evidence to show that al-Dalqamuni was in the FRG when the train incidents took place. As a matter of fact, he was having medical checkups in Damascus. There is evidence to

corroborate this. Al-Dalqamuni neither used weapons nor killed civilians in the FRG, nor any military personnel for that matter.

The FRG interior minister added that he reached the conclusion that al-Dalqamuni and his friends did not intend to kill FRG nationals inside or outside the FRG. We have faith in the FRG judiciary as long as it is not pressured by the United States.

The only charges leveled against al-Dalqamuni at present are that he belonged to a terrorist organization and that he possessed a quantity of weapons that was hidden in a warehouse. The third accusation, which has not been substantiated by any evidence, is that he participated in operations against U.S. military targets. We asked: Did he kill anybody in these operations? Since he neither killed nor wounded anybody, we believe there is no basis for this charge. Hence, the issue becomes different.

[Seale] What about the radio and the barometric device found at al-Dalqamuni's house?

[Jibril] Why this emphasis on the radio despite the fact that 12 kalashnikovs, hundreds of hand grenades, and 10 revolvers were found beside it. All of these things were being prepared for sending to Palestine. Just as we send rifles there, so we send technical equipment as required.

Such barometric devices are not exclusively used on planes. As a matter of fact, the device found, as I said, was intended to be sent to the occupied territories. It was meant to be used in fedayeen actions in mountainous areas. The specialists who examined this device said that it was not programmed to operate at the high altitudes of aircraft. The instruments found in al-Dalqamuni's possession were intended for ground and not air purposes.

The PFLP-GC has repeatedly announced its readiness to send any person to a neutral place such as Switzerland to investigate the matter or to have him answer questions on it. However, this offer went unheeded. Besides, nobody wants to know anything about this readiness of ours.

[Seal] Have you any fear about the possible outcome of al-Dalqamuni's trial?

[Jibril] We believe that the case against al-Dalqamuni is a political one. We also believe that the FRG authorities must deal with him accordingly. It must not be dealt with as a criminal case.

The testimonies made by al-Dalqamuni specifically tackled his political objectives. He is not a killer. He is a revolutionary. Hence, to avert injustice, the matter must be examined from this perspective. We cannot accept to see injustice done to him after he spent 12 years in an Israeli jail.

Al-Dalqamuni is a level-headed and reasonable man who believes in his cause. He is a man with a large family. He is a God-fearing man who cannot kill an innocent person. However, if the Germans were to succumb to U.S. pressure, the outcome would actually be different.

We hope the Germans will not succumb to U.S. blackmail and prove themselves to be cowardly. By this, we do not mean to threaten the Germans. Rather, we desire to explain our position. As a matter of fact, we are in constant touch with the Germans to explain our viewpoint. We do not harbor any evil intentions toward Germany or the Germans. In fact, quite the opposite.

[Seale] What about Muhammad Talib's involvement?

[Jibril] They arrested a man in Sweden named Muhammad Talib. They said he was a member of our organization, and that he had planted a bomb inside a plane in Malta. When I was asked by the media about this issue, I said I had confidence in the Swedish judiciary and that we had to wait and see what the Swedish courts would decide.

I also said I knew no one by that name, because we have no such member. U.S. intelligence leaked many reports on Muhammad Talib, his alleged connection with the PFLP-GC, and his responsibility for the Lockerbie incident.

A sentence was issued against Muhammad Talib in Sweden, but not as a member of the PFLP-GC. He himself said he neither knew about the PFLP-GC nor had any connection with it.

The Swedish judiciary announced that he was innocent regarding the Lockerbie incident, but was convicted with other matters we do not know about. However, we know that he was acquitted in the Lockerbie incident.

[Seale] It seems that the PFLP-GC is facing a psychological war aimed at creating certain circumstances under which President al-Asad will be forced to expel you. What do you say?

[Jibril] The United States is placing great pressure on Syria because of the PFLP-GC by exploiting the Lockerbie incident and the issue of terrorism.

When Faruq al-Shar' went to Washington last September, Baker raised the PFLP-GC issue. Al-Shar' told him the Syrians believed the PFLP-GC was not involved in the Lockerbie incident, and that the history of the Front was merely a resolute struggle against Israel. Al-Shar' asked Baker to give evidence of the Front's involvement for investigation by Syria.

During his recent visit to Syria early this year, Jimmy Carter also broached the issue of the Front with President al-Asad, who told Carter: The U.S. Administration promised last September to send us evidence of the Front's involvement in the Lockerbie incident, but unfortunately we have not yet received anything. Carter laughed, and said: Before leaving, I met with Baker and asked him to give me evidence to bring to you, but he refused, saying he could not. I told him: If you cannot give me evidence, how can you make accusations?

[Seale] What is the purpose of this uproar over the Lockerbie issue?

[Jibril] The Lockerbie issue is a completely political one. I can sum it up in a few words: The United States and Israel have refused to concede anything to Yasir 'Arafat despite all his concessions. They also planned a strategy on this concept.

At the same time, they know very well that if they do not give him anything, his plan will fail, and if his plan fails, an alternative revolutionary plan will emerge in the region. They also know that we in the PFLP-GC represent the cornerstone of that alternative revolutionary plan. Therefore, they want to destroy that alternative. They want the whole Arab nation to be weak as a cockroach turned on its back—waiting for death.

I have no doubt that the Americans know the identity of the real perpetrator of the Lockerbie incident, but they want to keep it a secret in order to level accusations against us.

[Seale] Do you think President al-Asad will expel you?

[Jibril] Hafiz al-Asad is an astute politician, and it is not easy to deceive him or play such games with him. On the pragmatic level, we wonder why al-Asad would present our heads on a platter to the Americans. Will they give him the Golan in exchange for our heads, or allow him to be the master of Lebanon? They might give him a few dollars. Does his presence here as a leader in Syria hinge upon their approval? I think not, because his internal situation is strong and secure, and the economic situation he is facing is improving rather than deteriorating. I believe the economic situation will bypass past mistakes and improve in the future.

And what will the alternative be for him on the Palestinian level? Yasir 'Arafat? The Palestine question is very important for Syria, so why should he then sacrifice us?

The Syrians spoke frankly to the Americans and said the PFLP-GC is not Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna]. Al-Asad told them that the history of this organization dates back to a time preceding his accession to power, and this organization has a large popular base. He told them if we treat it badly, this will reflect on us at the popular level, especially since the Syrians believe that this organization is ethical, militant, and a defender of principles. The Syrians know that our political position is above suspicion and that our organization is innocent of the accusations leveled at us.

[Seale] Can you sum up your program for me?

[Jibril] During the past eight years—since Lebanon—we have focused on basic issues, above all the need to continue the armed struggle. The second point in our program is to continue to back the intifadah and try to escalate it. The third is to rectify the Arab situation on the basis of rejecting all the resolutions adopted since the first Fes conference on 15 September 1982, when a resolution was passed adopting political means and relinquishing the military option. The fourth point is to

mobilize Islamic sentiment and Islamic forces all over the world in support of the Palestinian struggle.

Once we succeed in our program, we will have achieved a strategic balance, and the United States, the Europeans, and even the Israelis will realize that we are serious, and not jesting.

PFLP-GC Says 'Arafat Moving Toward 'Treason'

JN1206192590 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 12 Jun 90

[Statement issued by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command; date and place not given; read by announcer]

[Text] A PFLP-GC delegation headed by Secretary General Ahmad Jibril visited the Islamic Republic of Iran and met with several Iranian political and spiritual leaders. The delegation met with 'Ali Khamene'i, spiritual guide of Iran's Islamic revolution, and reviewed with him all issues related to the Palestine question and the liberation of holy Jerusalem from the filth of Zionism. Light was also shed on plots by U.S. imperialism, the Zionist enemy, and the deviationist policy in the Palestinian arena against our Palestinian Arab people, who, through their great intifadah, are confronting all plots and forms of deviation led by Yasser 'Arafat and the current PLO leadership.

According to 'Ali Khamene'i, 'Arafat is moving in the direction of treason and is therefore not serving the Palestine question or being sincere to it. Because he is dealing with the ostensible strength of the enemy—the strength that does not frighten us—'Arafat has reached a point where everyone knows that he is betraying himself and the cause for which he has struggled.

'Ali Khamene'i stressed his condemnation of all acts of capitulation and treason made by 'Arafat and his deviant movement on the Palestinian scene. He stressed that the position of Iran's Islamic revolution on 'Arafat, his liquidationist program, and the Zionist presence on the land of Palestine proceeds from the spirit of the Islamic principles that motivated Imam Khomeyni, who considered Israel a cancerous organ which must be removed from existence. He pointed out that the Islamic revolution in Iran is adhering to the teachings of Imam Khomeyni concerning resolute support for the Palestinian Arab people and their right to regain their homeland and liberate the sacred places. He underlined Iran's firm endeavor to liberate Palestine and its holy Jerusalem from the colonialist Zionist invasion, because the Palestine question concerns not only the Palestinians, but all Muslims throughout the world.

It is worth mentioning that the PFLP-GC delegation also met with Islamic Guidance Minister Dr. Mohammad Khatami and discussed the Palestine question and ways to support the Palestinian cause to affirm what is right and defeat what is wrong.

Abu-Sharif on Shamir Government, U.S. Dialogue

FA1106081790 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
11 Jun 90 p 1

[Report on "exclusive" interview with Bassam Abu-Sharif, "special adviser" to Yasser 'Arafat, by U.S.-based correspondent Danya Refa'el in Washington; date not given]

[Text] Shamir's new government will be "weak enough to be unable to oppose or reject U.S. views and counsel," this will allow the Bush administration to pursue its activities for the promotion of the peace process through Israeli-Palestinian talks. This assessment was made by Bassam Abu-Sharif, PLO leader Yasser 'Arafat's special adviser.

In a talk with the DAVAR U.S. correspondent, Abu-Sharif added that he believes the U.S. Administration "is almost sick and tired" with the continuous postponement of the beginning of the peace process. He added that the administration realizes that if no change occurs in the status of the peace process, "things will get out of hand and it will be very hard to control the situation in the Middle East."

Abu-Sharif, who is considered a moderate, further estimated that "judging by past experience regarding Yitzhaq Shamir's approach and policy, one can expect escalated use of force (on the part of the Army) in the occupied territories."

Nevertheless, referring to what can be expected from the new government headed by Shamir, Abu-Sharif added: "Sometimes those with a rigid line are the ones who can make things happen."

Replying to questions on the deplorable state of the U.S.-PLO dialogue and the tangible possibility that the United States will suspend the talks, Abu-Sharif was very optimistic: "No, he does not believe the dialogue will be stopped or even suspended."

As to the current crisis resulting from the attack of Abu-al-'Abbas' squads against Israel, Abu-Sharif sees it as "a summer cloud," that will lead to "neither the termination nor the suspension of the dialogue... which is important for the launching of the peace process."

Abu-Sharif further noted that 'Arafat had declared that "the PLO had no knowledge of the attack, was not responsible for it, and rejected all association with it... This declaration is clear enough to indicate that the PLO is indeed true to its commitment to abandon terror." Abu-Sharif's remarks made it clear that no further denunciation on the part of either 'Arafat or anyone else in the PLO should be expected.

PLO Contemplates Emergency PNC Session*JN1206140890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1300 GMT
12 Jun 90*

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Jun (INA)—The PLO is currently contemplating calling an emergency session of the Palestine National Council [PNC] within the next two months to discuss the latest developments in the Palestine question.

'Azzam Ahmad, State of Palestine ambassador in Baghdad, told the INA today that the PNC meeting will be dedicated to assessing the current Palestinian policy in light of the new developments in the Arab and international arenas.

He said that at the top of the PNC agenda will be the U.S. stand on peace in the Middle East and the obstacles in the face of the Arab-American dialogue efforts, in addition to the effects of the new Zionist government on the Palestine issue.

PLO, PRC Exchange Messages on Mideast Situation*JN1106074090 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
2000 GMT 10 Jun 90*

[Text] Chinese Defense Minister General Qin Jiwei, who is currently visiting Jordan, has received at his place of residence Palestinian Ambassador in Amman al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, who conveyed a message from the Palestinian leadership. The message deals with the latest Middle East developments in light of the important results of the latest Arab summit in Baghdad, the U.S. pressure on and threat to break off dialogue with the PLO, and the aggressive objectives of the forthcoming Israeli Government against the Palestinian people, Jordan, Iraq, and Libya.

The Chinese minister conveyed through the ambassador a message to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat. The message stresses China's support for all steps made by the Palestinian leadership to resist pressure and counter threats to the Palestinian people and the PLO.

In a related development, the Palestinian ambassador said that the PLO will seek a UN General Assembly session to help obtain a binding resolution enjoying a two-third majority to provide protection for the Palestinian people in the occupied territories after the United States used its veto against such resolution in the latest Security Council session.

He said that despite the U.S. maneuvers during that session—maneuvers that underscored the sterility of the U.S. policy and its full bias in favor of Israel—the world community can impose its will and provide protection for the Palestinian people in the occupied territories against the daily massacres perpetrated by the Israeli occupation authorities.

Intifadah Leadership Warns U.S. Interests*JN1106192990 Sanaa Voice of Palestine
in Arabic 1600 GMT 11 Jun 90*

[Text] The Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah [UNLI] has called for increasing the isolation of the fascist Zionist occupation authorities in the international arena and deepening the crisis of the Zionist entity. In its call No. 58, the UNLI pointed out that terrorist Shamir has formed his terrorist government to extend support to the radical racist movements, to advocates of transfer [preceding word in English], and to the enemies of a just and comprehensive peace.

The UNLI also said that this government will try to settle the new Jewish immigrants on the soil of our independent state. The UNLI explained that to achieve this goal, repression and state terrorism will be one of the policies of this government. It also urged a decisive stance against Washington by issuing warnings to its interests in the Arab countries and forcing it to retreat from its hostile position on Palestinian peoples' rights.

Radio Warns U.S. Not To Control Politics*JN1206212690 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic
1845 GMT 12 Jun 90*

["Reading of the Political Situation:" "Will the U.S. Administration Learn from the Experiences of the Past Few Days?"]

[Text] Dear brothers, in the past as well as recently, the U.S. Administration has proven that its tyranny is unlimited and that all the strings of the Israeli political game—the Likud, the Alignment, the talmudist rabbis, and all the way to [Me'ir] Kahane and the transfer people—all these political strings are strings under its control which it knows how to manipulate excellently and thus realizes its successes. It has even perfected its control over the extent of their successes.

The U.S. Administration has reached such an extent of tyranny that it believes that all political departments in the world and the Middle East cannot escape from the limits of its absolute control. Therefore, it pulls the strings and ropes of these departments in the same way it manipulates the Israeli strings.

Whether Washington realizes it or not, it only deceives itself with such a policy. It only distorts the reality which it does not want to see.

Not all departments functioning in the Middle East or elsewhere are an Israeli department. Washington has the right to do what it wishes in Israel; it is its creator, its dedicated follower, its financier, and its project manager, where all the project's profits and gains flow.

Objectively speaking, this cannot apply to any other arena, regardless of its level of subservience to Washington or the degree of its weakness, fear, and concern about the assault of the United States.

Perhaps the past few days can teach the U.S. Administration a lesson from which it can draw the necessary conclusions so as not to get tangled up in its own erroneous logic, which might give it the impression that it manipulates the strings of all departments. Perhaps the recent days will make the U.S. Administration conclude that the Palestinians submit only to their own resolutions—and their resolutions are in their hands, their future is in their grip and under the control of their blessed intifadah and their sole legitimate representative, the PLO. Perhaps it will finally realize that Palestinian flesh is bitter and vicious carnivores cannot gnaw at it.

Fatah's Khalaf Discusses U.S. Warning, Dialogue

Rejects Warning

NC0706124490 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1020 GMT 7 Jun 90

[Text] Tunis, 7 Jun (MENA)—Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf has stated that the PLO has rejected the U.S. warning and expects that the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue will be severed. In a statement published here today, he said that the PLO received the U.S. Administration's warning on the severance of the dialogue yesterday. He pointed out that for five days the U.S. Administration has been exerting pressure in every way to obtain compliance with its demands that the PLO condemn the Abu-al-'Abbas fedayeen operation near the shores of the occupied land last week. He said that the United States has also demanded that Abu-al-'Abbas be expelled from the PLO or his membership frozen, saying that otherwise it will be forced to sever the dialogue with the PLO.

Khalaf said that the PLO has rejected the warning and explained its stand renouncing terrorism. He said that the Palestinian reply pointed out that the PLO Executive Committee has no authority over Abu-al-'Abbas to expel him even if it finds fault with him [laha ma'akhidh 'alayhi] because he was democratically elected to the Palestine National Council. He said that the PLO has no wish to sever the dialogue, but the Palestinian side would lose nothing if it were severed. He added that in the course of this dialogue Washington used the veto against the Palestinian people more than 10 times, the U.S.

Congress endorsed a resolution recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital, and the major deal was concluded for the emigration of Soviet Jews to the occupied territories.

Urges Arab Support for Jordan

JN1106123090 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic
0925 GMT 11 Jun 90

[Text] Tunis, 11 Jun (PETRA)—Salah Khalaf, Fatah Central Committee member, has stressed the solidarity of the Palestinian leadership and people with Jordan against the challenges posed to it. He said Jordan is facing a number of real dangers, most conspicuous of which being the serious threat by the Israeli extremists to implement the alternative homeland scheme as a solution to absorb the large numbers of Jewish emigrants to Israel after expelling the Palestinians from the occupied territories.

In an interview with the Tunisian paper AL-SABAH, the Palestinian official stressed the need to implement the resolutions of the recent Baghdad summit on supporting Jordan to confront the economic crisis it is experiencing and to secure its military needs as a confrontation state that faces real dangers. He said the Arab assistance to Jordan can only be effective when the available financial support to Jordan can consolidate its defenses and steadfastness.

He said the Palestinian leadership places all its capabilities at the disposal of Jordan to confront the alternative homeland plot.

He affirmed the deep-rooted Jordanian-Palestinian relations on both official and popular levels. He said all attempts to separate the two peoples will be unsuccessful and totally useless.

He added that the two closest peoples in the region are the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples and that they are in effect one people. He said all attempts to undermine this unity will be unsuccessful. He added that the close relationship between the two peoples is based on blood ties and that the lack of differences between Jordanian and Palestinian cities confirm the solidity of the two peoples' unity in the face of all plots.

He added: Our objective is to establish the Palestinian state on Palestinian soil. The Jordanian and Palestinian peoples would then choose the shape of unity they want.

Algeria

Local, Regional Council Elections Held 12 Jun

Parties' Prospects Viewed

LD1106140990 Algiers APS in English 1315 GMT
11 Jun 90

[Text] Algiers, 11/6/90 (APS)—Tomorrow, June 12 will be held the first elections of democracy and multipartism in Algeria, 11 parties and 1365 lists of independents are taking part in the elections for the renewal of the local and regional councils.

Electors will have the choice among a number of lists and in the absence of polls, it would be hazardous to give any figure about the results of these elections. The audience of parties taking part in these elections can be weighed only after the results of the elections are known.

First what is considered by observers as a certainty is that the FLN [National Liberation Front] party will not have all the votes. If it is certain that the electoral campaign enabled it to resume the initiative and move upward mainly after the march it organized on June 17, and the participation of old faces in the campaign, it must take into consideration other sides taking part in these elections. Inside the country, there is no doubt that the fln lists will reach good results but in other places they will share with independent candidates.

In urban centers, the situation is, according to observers, quite different. In a number of places, it must face rivals which did not center their election campaigns on their own program but on violent critics and a trial of the management of the FLN.

In general, serious sources predict that the FLN will win from 50 to 60 percent of votes. It is worth noting in this context that the FLN leadership has made no forecast about these elections except that it noted with satisfaction that the FLN has remained in the mind of "deep Algeria" a determining force which has to healthen its ranks and democratize its methods for a program that will be more in relation with concerns of social justice and national independence which are shared by all the nation.

Another certainty is the conviction of most milieux that the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] will not realize a landslide which its leaders have been announcing since the legalization of their activities. It is worth recalling in this context that the spokesman of the FIS, Abassi Madani, declared this party included 3 million members, but since the March it organized on April 20 on the presidency and which gathered at most 60,000 persons, it appeared that the FIS is only what it really is, a party that can mobilize persons. Abassi Madani declared that his party will win 75 percent of votes. But independent sources give it no more than 25 percent in the best cases.

Among other parties taking part in these elections, a few will reach determining results but they will nonetheless be significant.

The biggest unknown thing in these elections remain the independent lists. They are present in all the electoral districts. Some members of these lists are militant of the FLN party (who did not have place in official lists of this party), but most of them are members of no party. They rely so much on the distrust of citizens toward the other parties. Though they did not have the same material means to carry out their campaign, the independent candidates rely on their popularity made up generally of confidence and wisdom.

To end up, one must note that the freedom to vote freely may also result in a high rate of abstention. A party (FFS), the Front of Socialist Forces at least puts serious hopes on this reaction and democratic milieux wonder if the call of Ait Ahmed to boycott these elections does not favor this solution. But the democratic parties and the democratic associations are working in order to make of these elections a success, the success of democracy.

Voter Turnout Averages 56 Percent

LD1206224690

[Editorial report] Algiers Domestic Service in French at 2200 GMT on 12 June reports that the latest figures on voter turnout at the national level at 2130 hours are as follows: The national voting turn out has reached 56.34 percent. In some (unspecified) towns this rate was more than 70 percent. The lowest turnout was recorded in Tizi Ouzou with 19.60 percent. The turnout in other major towns is as follows: Algiers 50.72 percent; Constantine 55.72 percent; Oran 55.43 percent.

Interior Minister: FIS Wins

LD1306074790 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic
0600 GMT 13 Jun 90

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Regarding the results of the elections, here is a statement by Interior Minister Mohamed Salah Mohammedi:

[Begin Mohammedi recording] The thing that can be said that all the operations were conducted in good and very calm circumstances—in a competitive and brotherly atmosphere worthy of praise, except for minor incidents.

This was the first observation. The second observation is that polling did not take place at one of the municipalities—the municipality of [word indistinct] in the wilaya [administrative district] of Khenchela. Polling there will be held later on.

The third observation is that the turn-out according to the information available up to now is about 60 percent; this reflects a considerable non-voting percentage.

The counting operation is still going on. But what can be said at this moment is that it appears that the [Islamic]

Salvation Front [FIS] has won, followed by the FLN [National Liberation Front]. The other observation is that except for the Rally for Culture and Democracy Party, no impact worthy of mention was made by the other parties.

This represents the initial information which I wanted to give to you. I suggest that we meet this afternoon so that we can give you the comprehensive statistics. [end recording]

Islamic Front's Madani on Victory

LD1306090290 Paris Domestic Service in French
0600 GMT 13 Jun 90

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [begin recording] [Algiers correspondent (Mathieu Aren)] The FIS, the Islamic [Salvation] Front, has won. Here is its leader Imam Abassi Madani:

[Madani] It is a victory for the Algerian people. The FLN [National Liberation Front] and we and other parties, we are all seeking the good of the Algerian people.

[(Aren)] Mr. Madani, are you aware that at the international level, many countries are afraid of you?

[Madani] It is you who have created that fear, sir, it is not us, sir. Do we make people afraid with our wisdom?

[(Aren)] When people say that you are fundamentalists, what do you reply?

[Madani] Sir, the fundamentalism comes from you and we are against your fundamentalism, sir. It is you who are the fundamentalists, not us; we are only Muslims. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Egypt

Paper Calls U.S. Veto Blow to Arab Pride

NC1106100990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0622 GMT
11 Jun 90

[Text] Cairo, 11 Jun (MENA)—In a commentary today, AL-AHRAM says that the United States has provoked the Arabs "with one stroke." Its recent use of veto has hit the Arab people's pride at the sensitive point as well as run over their concept of fair play. The United States, the paper says, has thus been able to undermine the great credibility which it has enjoyed in the Arab world since the start of President George Bush's term in office.

The U.S. Administration, AL-AHRAM says, has made a fatal mistake that was only as arrogant as it was totally unjustified. This is because the wording of the resolution that was submitted to the UN Security Council was totally free of any hardline statements. The wording of the draft resolution was actually "toned down" to a mere call for an international mission to be dispatched to monitor the situation in the occupied territories following the massacres there in broad daylight, and reported by U.S. media. The resolution in question was

trimmed down to this mere humane wish in a bid to avoid a U.S. veto, the paper says, noting that the United States showed of disapproval of the massacres.

The United States knew that Israel would reject any international investigation or missions and that it would not cooperate with a UN Security Council resolution to send a fact-finding mission, having refused to receive a previous international fact-finding mission. Despite that, the United States refused to endorse even such a humane gesture. It killed that resolution without remorse as it did with many previous resolutions that were not going to be implemented even if passed.

AL-AHRAM notes that the way the Arabs will see it is that Washington has acted purposely against a draft resolution that was worded in a "polite" if not ineffective manner and that its motive must have been to deal a humiliating blow to the Arabs and reverse any progress they may have made over the past few years. The Arabs may even conclude that the U.S. veto was meant as a "punishment" for the Arab world so that it may learn how to behave following the "excesses" that showed up in the summit and the insolence of the recent sea-borne operation against Tel Aviv.

AL-AKHBAR Rallies Intifadah Against Soviet Jews

NC1206085290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT
12 Jun 90

[Text] Cairo, 12 Jun (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR has urged the Arab states to support the Palestinian intifadah in every way possible so that the citizens of the occupied territories can make life hellishly unbearable for the Soviet Jews who immigrate to these territories. The paper emphasized that any effort made or money given for this purpose pales in comparison to the dangers facing the Arab world at this stage.

In its editorial today, AL-AKHBAR praised the jihad [holy war] launched by the sons of the valiant intifadah, which has entered its 31st month, adding that what the intifadah accomplished for the Palestinian cause during these months far exceeded the accomplishments scored during the long years of struggle when burdens were shouldered by organized bodies.

The paper added that the Arab world is fooling itself by relying on the slim hope of help from the outside world, led by the two superpowers, and therefore the Arabs must do something to fend off the danger threatening the Arab land.

Industrial Delegation Leaves for Moscow 12 Jun

NC1206120690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1120 GMT
12 Jun 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 12 Jun (MENA)—An Egyptian industrial delegation led by Engineer 'Adil al-Mawzi, chairman of the board of directors of the al-Nasr company for coke and basic chemicals in Hulwan, left Cairo for Moscow today on a 10-day visit to the Soviet Union.

Eng. al-Mawzi said the visit aims at concluding a deal under which the Soviet side will supply the company with 250,000 tons of coke, which represents the company's needs for the second half of the current year. [passage omitted]

Interior Minister Discusses Terrorists' Motives

PM1206145390 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic
7 Jun 90 p 8

[Interview with Interior Minister Major General Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa by Fathi Salih in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Salih] Egypt has witnessed several security incidents, from the Asyut and al-Minya incidents to the al-Fayyum incidents, which have drawn the attention of observers in Arab and Egyptian circles. In your view, what are the reasons and motives behind these incidents?

[Musa] We talked about the matter, and the People's Assembly issued a statement. We also say that the circumstances, motives, and aims of these incidents are linked to the fact that there are individuals whose prime concern is to see no stability in Egypt. These individuals espouse erroneous ideologies which have nothing to do with religion or with the call [al-da'wah].

In my view, if the matter had anything to do with the call, then it should be pointed out that the religion, its principles, and its essence include no violence.

So if you believe in an ideology as an ideology, you are free to find those who will listen to you. But if you turn to force and violence, you are violating God's law, the principles of the call, the fundamentals of Islam, and the law. And when the law is violated, a stand must be taken. [passage omitted]

[Salih] Do you believe there is a specific Iranian role behind what Egypt is experiencing, namely extremist organizations perpetrating acts of violence and terror in addition to security incidents, especially as it was announced some time ago that a Khomeyniist organization had been uncovered in Egypt?

[Musa] Without doubt: Who espouses that ideology, who is promoting it, and who is exporting it? It does not need any interpretation. Is that ideology not theirs? Is pilgrimage not the fifth pillar of Islam? Why are they trying to obstruct it? [passage omitted]

[Salih] You emphasized that dialogue is one of the means of confronting extremist tendencies, that dialogue has its 'ulema and its men, and that your task is to apply the law as a security chief. Do you still believe in the feasibility of dialogue with these groups, especially as the media services expressed different views when you supported it and then when you rejected it?

[Musa] A dialogue can be conducted when the other side is an equal. In fact it is not. It is a group of people who are violating the law. How can I hold a dialogue with

those people?! I believe that a dialogue with people who have lost their reason would be futile. Corrective attempts are being made in order to prevent the spread of that erroneous ideology among young people. And we do not hold dialogues with those who commit illegal acts. We apply the law to them. The process of correcting their ideologies and concepts is being conducted by specialists: the 'ulema of al-Azhar, preachers, and Awqaf [ministry] men. [passage omitted]

UAE Petroleum Minister Arrives on Visit

NC1106053590 Cairo MENA in English 2135 GMT
10 Jun 90

[Text] Cairo, June 10 (MENA)—United Arab Emirates [UAE] Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Mani' Bin-Sa'id al-'Utaybah arrived here tonight from Algiers on a few days' visit.

In an arrival statement, 'Utaybah said he will have talks during the visit with Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources 'Abd-al-Hadi Qandil to coordinate among OPEC countries and other non-member countries to achieve better petroleum stances to lead to stability in the petroleum markets and commitment to decisions of the recent OPEC conference, held in Geneva in May, which fixed the price at 18 dollars per barrel.

Minister Al-Sharif Opens Arab Media Conference

NC1006205890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1815 GMT
10 Jun 90

[Excerpts] Cairo, 10 Jun (MENA)—Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif opened the Arab information and direct transmission conference this evening. The three-day conference will discuss keeping pace with the technological revolution in the information field.

At the onset of the conference, Safwat al-Sharif delivered a speech in which he emphasized the need for the Arab media to be able to cope with the era of direct and semi-direct [shibh-mubashir] transmission via satellites and to keep pace with the swift successive developments in our contemporary world. [passage omitted]

Safwat al-Sharif noted that direct transmission, like any new development, has both positive and negative aspects, such as possibilities for ideological and cultural invasion, jeopardizing the societies' cultural identity, and influencing values.

He emphasized that these negative aspects will become possible if we view them negatively, remain idle toward them, and do nothing to cope with and confront them.

He said that national production must be developed quickly in order to adapt to the new situation because the real way to keep abreast of the challenges of the phase of direct transmission is with strong national and distinguished productions that can attract the viewer and that can substitute for foreign transmissions. [passage omitted]

The following is the text of Safwat al-Sharif's speech at the Arab information and direct transmission conference: [passage omitted]

I would like to point out that approximately four weeks ago, the heads of the Arab and African information organizations met in Cairo in accordance with the resolutions adopted during the 24th session of the Arab information ministerial council and the fifth session of the African information ministers conference that convened at Egypt's invitation to discuss the prospects for Arab-African cooperation in the information and communication fields. They issued a number of recommendations which, God willing, will become firm policies and applicable programs in the near future.

I wish to indicate that a number of the recommendations on telecommunications have been discussed. Overall, these recommendations relate to numerous subjects that will be brought up for discussion during this meeting, including those related to Arabsat, to making the best use of microwave, and those related to the coming generation of Arab satellites and the channels for direct transmission that they will provide.

I propose to this meeting's organizers that these recommendations be considered by all the participants because dealing with direct and incoming transmissions concerns all Third World states. There are several opportunities for inter-Arab cooperation and Arab-African cooperation. [passage omitted]

Australian Energy Minister Arrives in Cairo

NC0906080090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0700 GMT
9 Jun 90

[Text] Cairo, 9 Jun (MENA)—John Kerin, Australian minister of primary industries and energy, arrived in Cairo from Rome early this morning, to begin a visit expected to last several days.

Upon arrival, the Australian minister stated that during his visit he will meet with Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi; Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture; Dr. 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of state for administrative development; and Supply Minister Jalal Abu-al-Dhahab. During the meetings, agricultural and economic reform in Egypt, as well as bilateral relations, will be discussed.

Minister Kerin added that his visit to Egypt follows a European tour during which he held talks on agricultural issues with the EC countries.

Radiation Monitoring Network To Be Established

NC0906095490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0822 GMT
9 Jun 90

[Text] Cairo, 9 Jun (MENA)—Engineer Mahir Abazah, minister of electricity and energy, has stated that work is under way to construct a \$4 million nationwide network to monitor radiation in the environment.

Dr. Fawzi Hammad, director of the Egyptian Nuclear Energy Authority, has stated that the final specifications of the network have been determined according to International Atomic Energy Authority [IAEA] standards.

In an exclusive interview with a MENA correspondent, Dr. Hammad said the project was put out to limited tender last month and that a decision will be made on the offers submitted within two months at the latest, so that the technical and executive measures required for the construction work may be taken.

Dr. Hammad pointed out that the project includes the establishment of 52 radiation monitoring stations along the northern and eastern borders, as well as other inland monitoring stations. The project aims to detect any abnormal increase in radiation as a result of a nuclear incident.

Dr. Hammad pointed out that Egypt is a member of the IAEA-supervised international early warning and radiation monitoring network and of the international meteorological organization. According to Dr. Hammad, this means that any nuclear incident across the borders should be reported through the international network.

Furthermore, Dr. Hammad asserted that the radiation content of Egyptian sea water, particularly in the eastern region, has been measured in the past few months. Tests conducted in the Egyptian Nuclear Energy Authority laboratory showed no abnormal radiation content in the region.

On Egyptian-Arab cooperation, Dr. Hammad pointed out that the People's Assembly approved Egypt's participation in the amended agreement for Arab cooperation in nuclear fields during its last meeting. The agreement had been prepared by the Arab Nuclear Energy Organization.

It is worth noting that the Arab Nuclear Energy Organization was set up upon an Egyptian proposal during the 1964 Alexandria summit to promote cooperation in the peaceful application of nuclear energy, particularly in medicine, agriculture, isotopes, and electricity generation.

U.S. AID Signs Grant for Energy Projects

NC0906203490 Cairo MENA in English 1736 GMT
9 Jun 90

[Text] Cairo, June 9 (MENA)—The U.S. AID will extend to Egypt a 115-million-dollar grant in promotion of energy sector projects. The relevant aid agreement was signed by Minister of State for International Cooperation Maurice Makramallah and U.S. AID director William Roskens.

The U.S. AID director praised the Egyptian economic reform policy and said energy projects in Egypt are aimed at providing the infra-structure for major economic projects.

Al-Baz, PLO's Hurani Comment on Sea Operation*JN0506144490 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1200 GMT 5 Jun 90**[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]*

[Text] Dr. Usamah al-Baz, political adviser to President Mubarak, has denied reports published in some Egyptian newspapers that the PLO gave the Egyptian Foreign Ministry evidence that the Palestine Liberation Front's operation was aimed at military establishments on the Tel Aviv coast.

For his part, PLO Executive Committee member 'Abdallah Hurani reaffirmed that the PLO has no intention of changing its position on the peace process in the region. He said the PLO would meet in Baghdad to discuss the stance to be taken on peace in light of the recent U.S. veto.

In exclusive statements to our radio, Hurani added that the PLO was convinced that the recent channels and steps in the peace process had not produced any tangible results. He said it was natural for the PLO to reconsider the issue in the next stage. He explained that the PLO would reconsider its tactics. He said: We must try other channels, as the channels of communication with the U.S. Administration have not led to the anticipated result.

Two Sentenced To Hang for Drug Trafficking*NC1006192590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1740 GMT
10 Jun 90*

[Text] Cairo, 10 Jun (MENA)—The Cairo criminal court today handed down a sentence of death by hanging for Lebanese millionaire Najib al-Shayyani and Egyptian cafe owner Jabir Muhammad 'Umar and fined them 500,000 Egyptian pounds each. The court sentenced their partner 'Izzat Ibrahim to life at hard labor. The public prosecution office earlier referred them to the criminal court on charges of trafficking and smuggling narcotics for sale in Egypt and demanded that they be executed by hanging.

Libya**Al-Qadhdhafi Commemorates U.S. 'Expulsion'***LD1206194490 Tripoli JANA in English 0850 GMT
12 Jun 90*

[Text] Tripoli, al-Sayf [June] 12, Jamahiriya News Agency—The leader of the revolution, the maker of the era of the masses, attended the massive people's celebrations commemorating the 20th anniversary of the expulsion of U.S. troops and bases from the Libyan Arab soil thanks to the great al-Fateh revolution on 11th al-Sayf (June) 1970.

The leader was accompanied by president M.S. Barre of sisterly Somalia and his accompanying delegation, besides other sisterly and friendly delegations coming

especially to the land of the international resort (Mathaba) to join the Libyan Arab people in these festivities representing the will for emancipation from colonialism.

The massive celebrations were staged in M'aytiqa air base—the one liberated by the great al-Fateh revolution and its daring leader—the maker of evacuation and the breaker of fetters, Col. Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi.

Horsemen staged some performances there apart from performances in the air by the Libyan Air Force displaying the competence of our brave pilots.

Other teams from the air forces of Morocco and Tunisia participated in these performances. The two teams of Atlas and the Green March of Morocco and the Tunisian air formation staged remarkable performances in the air displaying the competence of Arab pilots to defend their homeland. Some Moroccan women pilots also participated in these performances.

The people attending these celebrations chanted for Arab unity stressing that they represent one people from the Atlantic to the Gulf. They also chanted for the great al-Fateh revolution. Libyan, Tunisian, Sudanese and Tanzanian folkloric troupes participated in these festivities showing the happiness of Arabs and Africans on this anniversary of the victory scored by the great al-Fateh revolution.

At 8.25 p.m. the leader of the revolution left the platform of the rally there amidst the chants of the masses assembled there chanting for Arab unity, the great al-Fateh revolution stressing their resolve to go down the road of revolution—the road of the era of the masses that has been covering the world with the green flag.

Correction to Al-Qadhdhafi Order*LD1206225190*

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Al-Qadhdhafi Order Creates People's Guards," published in the 12 June Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 12: Column two, first paragraph, first sentence, make read: ...creating the People's Guard [al-Haras al-Sha'bi]. Here is the.... (correcting title and providing vernacular)

Mauritania**Rebels Charge Mali Aids Nouakchott 'Genocide'***AB0206073890 Paris AFP in French 2210 GMT
31 May 90*

[Text] Dakar, 31 May (AFP)—The measures taken recently by the border authorities of Mali and Mauritania to end attacks by armed groups at the border between the two countries constitute "a grave threat against the Mauritanian refugees in Mali," the Mauritania African Liberation Forces, FLAM, a black Mauritanian opposition movement, believes. The FLAM states

in a communique handed over to the press in Dakar yesterday that these attacks have been carried out by refugees "against Mauritanian military positions in reaction to the genocide and systematic human rights violations in that part of Mauritania by the law enforcement forces." They believe, the communique adds, that the "Malian Government's attitude in this matter makes it look like it is aiding and abetting the genocide carried out by the racists in Nouakchott against the blacks."

Following their meeting, the Mauritanian and Malian border authorities decided "to immediately and systematically search for arm caches, rummage villages and hamlets, track down suspected people, and neutralize their withdrawal bases." This will help restore peace at their borders following attacks by armed groups and cattle stealing.

The FLAM, the communique concludes, calls on Mali "to let the UN High Commissioner for Refugees do its work rather than continue to deny the existence of more than 40,000 Mauritanian refugees on its soil."

Morocco

King Hassan II Receives Saharan Delegation

LD0406150890 Rabat MAP in English 1204 GMT
4 Jun 90

[Text] Rabat, June 4 (MAP) - King Hassan II received here Saturday [2 June] the members of the Royal Consultative Council for Saharan affairs and the notabilities of the Saharan tribes on the eve of their departure for Geneva where they are to join the UN commission entrusted with identifying those who will participate in the proposed referendum in the Sahara under the UN aegis.

Addressing the delegation, the sovereign underlined the sacred task entrusted to its members and called on the Sahrawi notabilities and chiefs of Saharan tribes to be objective, to show equity and spirit of justice and to keep vigilant.

King Hassan II said Morocco who is convinced of the legitimacy of his rights is in no need of votes other than the authentic ones. "Morocco can do without those who do not want and do not like to be Moroccans...Morocco is able to preserve its dignity taking up challenges and facing enemy conspiracies", The sovereign said adding that Morocco only yields to the almighty.

King Hassan then asked the members of the delegation to convey to their brothers they will meet in Geneva his "fatherly greetings" and to confirm to them that "the homeland is clement and merciful", virtues, the sovereign said, that are part of Moroccan ancestral traditions of tolerance and that fall in line with the precepts of Islam.

Chairman of the Ulema (Theologians) Council of Saharan provinces Sheikh Larabas Maa al Ainine [name, title as received] had earlier read out the memorandum the members of the Royal Consultative Council for Saharan Affairs,

the Saharan notabilities and chiefs of Saharan tribes addressed to King Hassan II at the end of a week-long meeting they held in Rabat. The memorandum pointed out that following the United Nations drives for the meeting of the UN technical identification commission, the Saharan notabilities and chiefs of Saharan tribes held a week-long meeting in Rabat to examine the census lists of the inhabitants of the Saharan provinces and had unanimously drawn up a list of the members who will represent them in the Geneva meeting.

The memorandum signatories reaffirmed their attachment to the 'Beiaa' (Allegiance) which has been binding for so long the Sahara populations to Moroccan sovereigns.

"They express their unshakeable faith in the Moroccanity of the Saharan Provinces liberated thanks to your genius and voice their firm conviction that the referendum to be organized by the U.N. will undoubtedly give evidence to the whole world that the inhabitants of the Sahara are an integral part of the Moroccan nation and are firmly attached to their Moroccan citizenship," the memorandum pointed out stating further that "they pray the almighty to crown with success your efforts meant to reunite them with the group of the sequestered people and those who went astray, to whom they are bound by kinship ties, hoping that this occasion would provide the latter with the opportunity to be back again on the right path."

The delegation Sunday [3 June] headed to Geneva where it is to partake as of this Monday [4 June] in the meetings of the UN technical identification commission.

Laraki Receives U.S. Democratic Delegation 4 Jun

LD0406171190 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 4 Jun 90

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. Azzedine Laraki received this morning a delegation of the Democratic Party in the U.S. Congress which includes Mr. Lehman from the state of Florida, who is chairman of the Budget Subcommittee, and Mr. DeFazio from Oregon, who is a member of the public works and transportation committee.

During the meeting the congressional delegation referred to relations between Morocco and the United States, as well as the development of the situation in the Middle East. The prime minister and the U.S. delegation praised the level of cooperation between the two countries which are based on the long standing ties of friendship. They reaffirmed the two countries' determination to consolidate and diversify these relations.

With regard to the situation in the Middle East, Dr. Azzedine Laraki acquainted the members of the U.S. delegation with the Arab attitude toward the Palestinian issue and the peace process in the region. He referred to the negative reflection of the recent attitude of the U.S. Congress toward the status of Jerusalem and the dire consequences of the problem of the immigration of Soviet Jews on the peace process in the Middle East. The

members of the U.S. delegation stressed that the Congress decision regarding the status of Jerusalem is by no means binding on the U.S. Administration, and that the attitude of the latter clearly opposes the settlement of new immigrants in the occupied territories. They reaffirmed that Congress has laid down a condition for granting aid to the Israeli Government: that it should guarantee that it does not use the funds for the settlement of immigrants in the occupied territories.

The meeting was attended by Michael Ussery, U.S. ambassador in Rabat, the close aides of the prime minister, and the chief of the European and American Affairs Department at the Moroccan Foreign Ministry.

Sudan

Interest Reiterated in Chadian Stability

EA1206213390 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1445 GMT
12 Jun 90

[Text] Khartoum, 12 June (SUNA)—Sudan has reiterated its interest in the stability of neighboring Chad and in maintaining goodneighborly relations with it on the basis of Sudan's foreign policy toward all neighboring countries. This was stated during a meeting of the Department of Peace and Foreign Affairs of the Political Committee, which met here today under the chairmanship of Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, Revolution Command Council member and head of the department. During the meeting the members were briefed on Sudanese-Chadian relations and the security situation in Darfur region.

Minister Notes 'Contradiction' in U.S. Proposal

JN1206160190 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic
11 Jun 90 p 27

[Interview with 'Abdallah Deng Lual, Sudanese minister of guidance and orientation, by Isma'il Muhammad 'Ali—date and place not given]

[Excerpts] ['Ali] How do you assess the military situation in the south?

[Lual] What is taking place in the south is a guerrilla war, with explosions occasionally appearing here and there. The government now is in full control over the military situation in the south. The situation has been in favor of the Armed Forces, especially after 30 June [1989], since the new government placed special emphasis on the army in terms of preparedness and training. I can say that the situation is much better than it was in the past. [passage omitted]

['Ali] What is your comment on the U.S. Administration's initiative for solving the south issue on the basis of achieving peace and democracy?

[Lual] The government has commented on some of the points of the U.S. Administration's initiative. As for the

proposal that government troops be withdrawn from the south and replaced by international forces, this point is rejected by us, because such a procedure is usually carried out when the dispute is between two states. The dispute in Sudan is not between two states. As for democracy and government structure, such issues are to be determined by the Sudanese people. We reject any initiative accompanied by certain conditions. The Sudanese people are able to choose their governance formula, and the form of democracy they want.

The U.S. Administration has proposed nothing useful. The first U.S. initiative was more useful, although the Americans talked about a federation. The U.S. officials' statements on this issue were positive, and we expected the current initiative to come in light of these statements. It was not clear to us what they wanted. There is a contradiction in the U.S. position. This is either because they are unaware about the true state of affairs, or because their policy is confused. I believe the U.S. vision is still unclear. We welcome any other views or initiatives from any state to help achieve peace, but we reject internationalization as indicated by the U.S. initiative.

['Ali] You said the U.S. position is unclear toward the Sudanese policy, especially regarding the south issue, and that there is a contradiction in its views. Does this have anything to do with the unity plan with Libya?

[Lual] It is up to others to make whatever interpretations they wish. However, the unity plan is the decision of two peoples. We believe the entire world is moving toward unity. Therefore, we are going ahead with our unity. Others have no reason to object to our unity, because it is not aimed against anyone. In fact, it serves the interests of the two peoples. [passage omitted]

['Ali] Will the unity plan be confined to Sudan and Libya?

[Lual] We invite any friendly state to join the unity. The unity plan does not discriminate against the membership of any state. It is open to both Arab and African states.

['Ali] How would you describe the Sudanese-Ethiopian relations now?

[Lual] Relations are now good, and there are contacts between officials. This confirms that these relations are developing despite occasional misunderstandings.

Numayri Supporters Reported Arrested for Coup Plot

PM1206083890 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic
11 Jun 90 p 6

[Unattributed report: "New Coup Attempt In Sudan"]

[Text] The Sudanese Government has recently arrested 18 officers from the engineering, infantry, and artillery corps on the charge of planning a new coup, which they intended to carry out two weeks ago. According to Sudanese sources, the would-be putschists are loyal to former President Ja'far

Numayri and include Numayri's uncle, Mubarak Sanadah, and Dr. Kamil Mahjub, who was responsible for the rural areas during Numayri's rule.

Sudanese sources say that the Sudanese Government has released First Lieutenant 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Mahdi, son of former Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi; and 'Abd-al-Rasul al-Nur, former governor of Darfur. They were arrested last March on the charge of taking part in a coup attempt.

New RCC Secretary General Appointed

EA0406091190 Khartoum SUNA in English 0910 GMT
4 Jun 90

[Text] Khartoum, 4 Jun (SUNA)—The chairman of the Revolution Command Council, RCC, Gen. 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, yesterday decreed the appointment of Col. (PSC) [passed Staff College] Engineer 'Abd al-Rahim Muhammad Husayn as secretary general of the Revolution Command Council.

Col. Husayn is to succeed Col. Abd al-Al Mahmud [name as received], whose secondment to the (RCC) expired on 31 May.

Darfur Governor Confirms Chadian Withdrawal

EA0406215890 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1050 GMT
4 Jun 90

[Text] Khartoum, 4 Jun (SUNA)—(?Major-General) 'Abu al-Qasim Ibrahim Muhammad, governor of Darfur Region, has confirmed the withdrawal of Chadian forces from the region since the fighting with the Chadian opposition.

In a statement published today in the newspaper AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH, he said that the regional government had begun to deal with the effects of the Chadian

conflict on Darfur citizens, by providing relief and resettling those whose villages had been burned, so that life could get back to normal. His excellency stated that (?Sudan) was trying earnestly to resolve the real causes of these problems through diplomatic channels [words indistinct] to count the foreigners in the region along the border (?to stem border) violations.

The governor said the security situation in southern Darfur was stable, due to official and popular efforts in the areas which had witnessed conflicts in the past. He added that the tribes which had been fighting had mixed in the market places, living quarters, and villages, and that all causes of conflict and antipathy had disappeared from the citizens' minds and hearts.

Equatoria Governor on Yei Security Situation

EA0406223290 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic
1515 GMT 4 Jun 90

[Report by staff Major-general Allison Manani Magaya, the governor of Equatoria Region—recorded; place and date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Yei town was made secure a month or so ago. The outlaws were preparing to enter Yei, but the Armed Forces foiled their plans and secured an area of about 10 miles around Yei, and the citizens have started returning to the town. So far, about 20,000 of Yei's 70,000 inhabitants have returned. But the outlaws have started planting antipersonnel mines on the roads to the town - to prevent the citizens from returning. We have directed the corps of Engineers' to clear these roads of mines, and they have found a great number of them. The outlaws also destroyed the Yei bridge, but the armed forces and other organizations rebuilt the bridge, and it was officially reopened on 1 June.

Kuwait**Deputy Prime Minister Receives Soviet Envoy***LD1206162290 Kuwait KUNA in English 1305 GMT
12 Jun 90*

[Text] Kuwait, June 12 (KUNA)—Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir received here Tuesday Soviet Ambassador to Kuwait Ernest Zverev.

It was learnt that the Soviet ambassador has conveyed during the meeting a message to Shaykh Sabah including results of the recent Washington summit between Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. President George Bush, particularly in respect with Middle East issues and Soviet Jewish emigration to occupied Palestine.

Shaykh Sabah reiterated Kuwait's stand toward the dangers of the Soviet Jews emigration on the Palestinian people.

Shaykh Sabah also blessed rapprochement between the two superpowers, hoping that it will reflect on boosting international security and peace and eliminating all destructive weapons.

Heir Apparent Appointed Council Chairman*LD1306100790 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0933 GMT
13 Jun 90*

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 13 June 90, KUNA—Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabil al-Ahmad al-Sabah has ordered the appointment of Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, the heir apparent, as chairman of the Council of Ministers and charged him with nominating members of the new cabinet and presenting him with their names so he can issue an appointments decree. [passage omitted]

Editorial Praises Election, Winners Distinction*JN1206152890 Kuwait AL-RAY AL-'AMM
in Arabic 11 Jun 90 p 1*

[Editorial: "The Winner Is the Unified Family"]

[Text] Many happy returns on election day.

Congratulations to those who made it to the National Council, and prayers for better luck to those who did not.

In any case, the Kuwaitis measured up to the good confidence placed in them. By showing up at the polls, they underscored their affiliation with their country and sense of being one family, as well as their complete loyalty to their regime and the promising march toward the future.

The elections were a test that Kuwait passed with distinction. Kuwait proved the credibility of its policy and showed that when tested, it knows its own way and how to rally nearly all its sons around it. We said in the past, and we are saying again, that the option is open to all people—including those who blew themselves out of

proportion—to start a new chapter in Kuwait's march. They can find their places and roles within the general orientation called for by his highness the amir to build Kuwait and consolidate its democratic experience, so that it may be an example for others to follow.

The Kuwaitis exercised their election duty in full freedom—which constitutes one of the legitimate foundations of our march. Now that the dialogue has received its constitutional mandate through the new National Council, action is the only criterion for judgment, just as loyalty to Kuwait has all along been the umbrella that protected our family, march, achievements, and aspirations.

And to those who were so mistaken as to believe that the elections would not take place in their absence, we say that the elections did take place yesterday—the Kuwaitis turned up, demonstrating that when it comes to choosing, Kuwait is their only option. Therefore, they are opening their minds and hearts to those who went off course. Their return to the march will be like the return of the prodigal son. You may remember, men of reason, that Kuwait was established and will continue to be established on tolerance, forgiveness, and love. This is its simple but great philosophy. Love has always been the strongest. It is Kuwait's sharpest weapon, so, let us adhere and hold fast to it.

Now that the results of elections have appeared, some people need to reconsider things. Life must go on, and Kuwait's united march is its life and constitution.

Oman**Iranian Navy Commanders Arrive on 'Friendly Visit'***JN1006155290 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic
1300 GMT 10 Jun 90*

[Text] Staff Lieutenant General Hamid Bin-Sa'id al-'Awfi, chief of the Sultan's Armed Forces General Staff, received at his office in the al-Murtafi'ah Barracks today Rear Admiral (Mohsen Siyar), commander of the Iranian Naval College, and the commanders of the two Iranian ships, Alborz and Bayandor, currently visiting our country. During the meeting, they had a friendly conversation and discussed issues of mutual concern.

The meeting was attended by Mohammad 'Arab, ambassador of the friendly Islamic Republic of Iran to Oman, and Air Force Staff Brigadier General Yahya Bin-Rashid al-Rashid Al Jum'ah, assistant to the Sultan's Armed Forces chief of staff for administrative affairs.

Staff Captain Shihab Bin-Tariq Al Sa'id, deputy commander of the Omani Sultan's Navy and director of naval operations, also received Rear Admiral (Mohsen Siyar), commander of the Iranian Naval College, and the commanders of the two Iranian ships.

The two ships, Alborz and Bayandor, arrived at Qabus harbor this morning on a friendly visit to Oman which will last until 13 June.

Minister Discusses Iraq-Iran, GCC Summits

JN1006155790 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic
1300 GMT 10 Jun 90

[Text] Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, today left for Manama leading Oman's delegation to the third meeting of the three-member committee charged with studying political developments on the international arena scheduled to begin in Manama later today.

In predeparture remarks to the OMANI NEWS AGENCY, his excellency said that conferees at the meeting, set up by the 10th [Gulf Cooperation Council—GCC] summit, will discuss the reports prepared by the committee before drafting the final report to be submitted to the GCC leaders at their 11th summit, slated for later this year in Doha.

His excellency once again stressed that Oman calls for and supports the endeavors to arrange the expected Iraq-Iran summit. He also said that the GCC member states support this move, adding that the summit and preparations for it are still subject to consultation between the two parties. He said: We will spare no effort to make this meeting possible.

His excellency was seen off by Khamis Bin-Hamad al-Battashi, head of the Foreign Ministry's Protocol Desk, and Khalid Muhammad Jabr, Bahrain's ambassador to Oman.

Saudi Arabia

Over 200,000 Pilgrims Arrive in Hajj

LD1206175290 Riyadh SPA in English 1445 GMT
12 Jun 90

[Text] Jeddah, 12 June (SPA)—The number of pilgrims arriving in the Kingdom up till the end of yesterday, Monday, has reached 215,787 pilgrims, the director general of the Passport Department, Major General Fahd bin Muhammad al-Sharif, has told SPA.

He added that some 189,717 pilgrims have arrived by air, 15,646 pilgrims by sea, and 10,424 pilgrims by land.

New Natural Gas Well Discovered at Al-Hilwah

LD1106223590 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2207 GMT
11 Jun 90

[Excerpt] The minister of petroleum and mineral resources and acting planning minister, Hisham Nazir, announced that: The Saudi company ARAMCO has

discovered a new [natural] gas well at the town of al-Hilwah, situated 137 km south of Riyadh and 45 km north of al-Hutah well number 1.

This announcement came in a statement made by His Excellent Hisham Nazir to SPA today, Monday. [passage omitted]

King Fahd, Cabinet Discuss Lebanon, Kuwait

LD1106191790 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1800 GMT
11 Jun 90

[Excerpt] King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, chaired a cabinet meeting this afternoon, Monday, 11 June, at Al-Salam Palace in Jeddah.

Following the meeting, his excellency 'Ali al-Sha'ir, the minister of information, made the following statement to SPA:

At the beginning of the meeting, King Fahd talked about some issues related to the situation in the Arab world in light of latest developments on the Arab and international levels. He stressed the need to continue joint Arab efforts for the sake of the Palestinian cause, which is currently going through a significant and decisive phase in the history of the struggle of the Palestinian people to regain their legitimate rights.

In his talks with the cabinet, he discussed the interest of the Arab Higher Tripartite Committee on Lebanon, delegated by the Casablanca and Baghdad summits, to intensify its efforts to find a solution to the Lebanese crisis stemming from the document of the national reconciliation unanimously adopted by Lebanese parliamentarians during their meeting in al-Ta'if.

In this connection, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz expressed his gratitude and esteem for the messages and statements of thanks expressed by all Lebanese officials and citizens from all factions for the stances of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia toward Lebanon during the Baghdad summit.

He said: Our duty requires from us to stand by Lebanon until it recovers its health and continues its Arab role amid its brothers from Arab countries. We do not expect thanks from the brothers of Lebanon for the fulfillment of this duty, as much as we look forward to their cooperation and response with the Arab efforts currently underway for the sake of Lebanon's unity, land, and people, and consequently for the sake of its security and stability.

The minister of information added: On the other hand, the cabinet expressed satisfaction over the results of the Kuwaiti national Assembly, wishing Kuwait, its government and people progress, prosperity, and success. [passage omitted]

Paper Warns of Israeli War Plans*JN1306101990 Baghdad INA in English 0940 GMT
13 Jun 90*

[Text] Baghdad, June 13, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily described the Zionist acts of genocide and deportation against the Palestinian people as an indirect declaration of war against the Arab nation.

In an article entitled "the Zionist dilemma and the war option", the daily urged the Arabs to be ready for any probable aggression, provided that the unanimous will crystallized by Baghdad summit would be the starting point for any national action.

The daily warned the Zionist entity of the evil consequences of a new hostile attempt against the Arab nation, confirming that any surprise Zionist strike, no matter how, would be met with killing strikes as a first retaliation.

What's more, the paper added, the confrontation with the Zionist entity will take comprehensive dimensions in such a way that enables the Arab nation to prepare its forces and capabilities for a long war not hinging on Zionist decisions.

The paper made it clear that as a first step towards war, Zionist premier Yitzhak Shamir picked military Zionists known with their hostile and expansionist tendencies to form his new government.

AL-THAWRAH recalled President Saddam Husayn's speech at the opening session of Baghdad summit which confirmed that if Israel dare to deal a strike to Iraq or any Arab country, Iraq would strike back and if it used mass-destruction weapons, Iraq would do the same.

The paper concluded that the next war would be different not only in its final results but also in the ensuing destruction and human and material losses which Zionists would never be able to make up for.

Paper Warns Iran Against 'Status Quo'*JN1206150390 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic
9 Jun 90 p 2*

["Spotlight" column by Sabri: "Quietly Speaking"]

[Text] Despite the fact that 22 months have passed since the cease-fire between Iraq and Iran went into effect, and that more than 10 months have gone by since Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjan assumed power, the situation in Iran has not witnessed any serious or tangible changes in the political, economic, and social spheres. It seems that such changes are not expected to emerge in the near future.

Iran was expected to launch a new phase involving a new political course—a policy that would forget the chapter of war once and for all and address the future. Besides, Iran was expected to work to rebuild its foreign ties on a rational and realistic basis, and also to resolve its accumulating domestic problems. Furthermore, Iran was

expected to put an end to its previous practices. However, none of this has happened thus far.

Iran's economic and social problems have continued to worsen. This is acknowledged by Iranian officials themselves. Iran's ties with a number of foreign states continue to be marked by tension and convulsions. As for the steps it has made in the way of achieving a comprehensive and durable peace with Iraq, they are very slow and hesitant despite the numerous peace initiatives launched by Iraq and the prudent steps that Iraq has made to achieve this objective.

Moreover, Iran's ties with a number of Arab states have thus far remained unstable. Iran has continued to pursue a hostile policy against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, to create a crisis over the quota of Iranian pilgrims, to insist on politicizing the pilgrimage season, and to foment trouble on the pretext of (declaring treaty obligations with infidels null and void) [incomplete part of Koranic verse; parentheses as published] despite the undisputably great flexibility displayed by Saudi Arabia in this regard.

It might be said that 10 months are insufficient for effecting a substantial change in the Iranian position and for making major decisions such as a decision on peace with Iraq. Moreover, it might be said that the internal situation in Iran cannot withstand the introduction of such changes and the adoption of such decisions in light of the existing equations. To some extent, this might be true. But the problem of the Iranian regime is that the time factor does not work in its favor. Besides, any slowness or delay in effecting change or achieving a comprehensive and durable peace with Iraq will reflect negatively on the overall situation of this regime and also on the Iranian peoples, who are bound to wonder now on the reasons behind the continuation and persistence of their agonies and problems despite the fact that the war has ended.

The longer the status quo is maintained in Iran, without effecting the required changes and without achieving a comprehensive and durable peace with Iraq and in the region, the more its problems will accumulate. This must be taken into account.

Islamic Solidarity Conference To Start 16 Jun*JN1006174390 Baghdad INA in English 1100 GMT
10 Jun 90*

[Text] Baghdad, June 10, INA—The World Popular Islamic Conference for the Solidarity With Iraq will start here on 16th instant.

The conference will be organized by the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) and the Iraqi Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs.

Minister of endowments and Religious Affairs 'Abdallah Fadil told AL-JUMHURIYAH daily of today that the conference would be attended by 400 dignitaries representing Islamic organizations and bodies as well as ministers of endowments.

The minister added that the conference aimed at announcing full solidarity with Iraq to confront the anti-Iraq campaign aimed at preventing Iraq from attaining scientific and technological development.

Mr. Fadil pointed out that the conference would work out a strategy for coordinating the Islamic action to curb all dangerous threats facing pan-Arab security.

Envoy to UN, de Cuellar Discuss Resolution 598

JN1306140790 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1030 GMT 13 Jun 90

[Text] Iraq's permanent representative at the United Nations met with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar last night. The talks dealt with the UN's role in implementing Security Council Resolution No. 598 calling for a comprehensive end of the war between Iraq and Iran.

'Aziz, ICRC Envoy Meet, Discuss POW Policy

JN1206205090 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1800 GMT 12 Jun 90

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received today (Jean de Crouton), head of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] operations department, and his accompanying delegation.

The foreign minister affirmed during the meeting that Iraq's firm and principled policy on the POW issue, which stems from President Saddam Husayn's peace initiatives, continues to view this issue as a purely humanitarian cause with no connection to the political issues in the talks between Iraq and Iran. The comprehensive exchange of prisoners should have taken place at the end of the actual aggression operations when the cease-fire went into effect on 20 August 1988. This is what the Third Geneva Convention of 1949 stipulates. This is also the position repeatedly stated by the ICRC.

The minister called on the ICRC and the international community to pressure the Iranian regime to adhere to the Geneva convention and proceed with the release of prisoners comprehensively, fully, and unconditionally.

He also affirmed Iraq's readiness to cooperate loyally and accurately with the ICRC in taking care of the prisoners and implementing the articles of the Geneva Convention.

The meeting was attended by the heads of the International Organizations and Conferences Department and the Legal Department, both at the Foreign Ministry.

Acting Finance Minister on Debt Repayment

JN1206071390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1715 GMT
11 Jun 90

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Jun (INA)—Iraq has repaid \$3,000,418,300 of its foreign debts during the first four months of 1990. This was stated today by Muhammad

Mahdi Salih, trade minister and acting finance minister, during a meeting with Iraqi industrialists, exporters, and importers to explain the new decisions and measures regulating importing and exporting without foreign transfer. Journalists and Arab and foreign news agency correspondents, including INA's, attended the meeting.

The minister said that Iraq will continue to repay its debts in accordance with the timetable and Iraq's major economic resources. [sentence as received]

The trade minister and acting finance minister added that a sum of \$250 million has been allocated for cash payment of imports needed for industrial activity. He also said that imports, paid for by two-year or less deferred payments, will no longer be allowed in accordance with the instructions given by President Saddam Husayn in the field of planning and directing Iraq's economic policy.

He also announced that 78 commodities, listed as non-essential commodities which were allowed to be imported without external transfers, will no longer be imported in light of the positive results of the decision to import by cash payments for the productive sectors with the aim of increasing the supply of commodities to meet the local demand.

Muhammad Mahdi Salih pointed out that Iraq has rescheduled \$1 billion of debts which a number of Arab and foreign states owe to Iraq with a grace period ranging between 5 and 10 years and a low interest rate of 2.5 percent. He said Iraq has done this to stress its policy aimed at strengthening its economic relations with all states in the world on the basis of mutual benefit, and its humanitarian view to make an effective and influential contribution toward resolving the problems of international indebtedness for all states in the world.

On conclusion of the meeting that was attended by the secretaries general of the Ministries of Trade, Industry, and Military Industrialization, and the Central Bank of Iraq, the trade minister and acting finance minister expressed hope that the major positive economic results of these resolutions will be employed to strengthen the productive capabilities and, hence, increase the supply of commodities to meet the local demand.

U.S. Congressional Delegation Leaves Baghdad

JN1106120790 Baghdad INA in English 1030 GMT
11 Jun 90

[Text] Baghdad, June 11, INA—The U.S. Congress delegation headed by Mr. Murphree Wangflood [name as received] left Baghdad this morning at the conclusion of a week-long visit to Iraq.

During the visit, the delegation held talks with several Iraqi officials and got acquainted with the cultural and architectural development witnessed by Iraq.

Bar-Kokhba Interviewed on 'Next War' With Arabs

JN1306083390 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM
in Arabic 5 Jun 90 p 18

["Text" of an undated interview with General Bar-Kokhba, Israeli Army assistant chief of staff "in charge of assessing operations," conducted by the "Israeli Army Radio:" "General Bar-Kokhba: The Next War Is Imminent and Inevitable...and We Will Occupy Sinai and Will not Stop at the Suez Canal"]

[Text] [Radio] There has been a clamor recently in Israeli military circles following statements in which you spoke about the Israeli Army's failure to destroy the intifadah in the occupied territories and about the need for the military commanders to learn personal lessons in light of that failure. Did you mean specific military commanders or all the Army commanders?

[Bar-Kokhba] We cannot accuse all the Army commanders of failure. I certainly mean some commanders, and there is no need to name them.

[Radio] What do you mean by failure of the Israeli Army to destroy the intifadah, and do you believe that the Army had to use military force to do that?

[Bar-Kokhba] Yes, that is exactly what I meant, and every one knows that the Army could have ended the "riots and violent actions" at the eruption of the intifadah and that the delay in issuing orders and moving more forces to the occupied territories during the first days of the intifadah led to the spread of sweeping demonstrations. Thus, we allowed all or the majority of the local residents to participate in the demonstrations and the violent actions against us.

[Radio] What do you propose now?

[Bar-Kokhba] I propose a tougher Israeli policy as well as the imposition of more punishments on the local residents in order to deter them and quell violent actions and riots.

[Radio] Do you have any specific plan?

[Bar-Kokhba] I believe I have a plan that can successfully stop the incidents.

[Radio] Is it a secret plan, or can you elaborate on the details?

[Bar-Kokhba] There is no talk about a secret military plan. The working plan I propose is summed up in relieving the Israeli Army of the task of dealing with the intifadah in the occupied territories so that the Army can devote its time to training and military maneuvers and prepare, as it should, for the forthcoming war in the region which I believe is inevitable. A special military force should also be formed to deal with and crush the intifadah.

[Radio] Of course, you propose that you command such a military force?

[Bar-Kokhba] Yes, I demanded that and I still insist on this position.

[Radio] I have learned that Israeli Chief of Staff Dan Shomron summoned you to his office and warned you against repeating such statements or else you would be expelled from the Israeli Army?

[Bar-Kokhba] I met with General Shomron and we talked about some important issues pertaining to the continued intifadah in the occupied territories as well as my recent statements. Gen. Shomron listened to my position but he did not threaten me with expulsion from the Army. There is no basis for what was announced by the media.

[Radio] Some people say that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir rushed to defend you and asked General Shomron not to dismiss you from service.

[Bar-Kokhba] This is untrue, and the prime minister did not defend me because I did nothing to warrant this.

[Radio] You have requested a meeting with the prime minister to brief him on the plan you have prepared to end the intifadah. Have you met him?

[Bar-Kokhba] No, I have not yet met with the prime minister. I have requested a meeting, but, as you know, the prime minister is very busy now with his great efforts to form the new government.

[Radio] Do you support the Likud Party, or do you support a small rightist party?

[Bar-Kokhba] I cannot answer this question, because I am a known military man, and I am not here for political or party propaganda purposes.

[Radio] General Bar-Kokhba, let us go back to developments in the occupied territories. Do you prefer settling the situation militarily?

[Bar-Kokhba] I believe this is inevitable and we must work strongly and firmly to end the intifadah.

[Radio] With tanks?

[Bar-Kokhba] I have demanded that tanks be brought into the Palestinian villages and cities. So long as there is talk of military decisiveness, then we must resort to all possible means, including tanks.

[Radio] You view the Palestinian intifadah in the occupied territories from a military perspective and deal with it as if it was a real war?

[Bar-Kokhba] I deal with it on a military basis. What is happening in the occupied territories is a real war. We are dealing with a war that has been going on for approximately three years. It is time now for decisiveness.

[Radio] As you know, the fall of more victims in the occupied territories has tarnished Israel's reputation and image and shaken its relations with the world states,

including the friendly states such as the United States, and resorting to military force to quell the intifadah will undoubtedly lead to further killings and injuries. The number could be hundreds or even thousands, so how do you view reactions to such acts?

[Bar-Kokhba] What I am basically concerned about is Israel's security and safety. In my opinion, guaranteeing security is much more important than protests from here and there. We must not at all allow disturbances and acts of violence to continue in "Eretz Yisra'el."

[Radio] Do you believe Likud Leader Yitzhaq Shamir will succeed in forming a narrow-based government before the second deadline from President Herzog?

[Bar-Kokhba] I do not want to talk about this.

[Radio] Let us assume that Shamir has succeeded in forming a government; who would you nominate as defense minister?

[Bar-Kokhba] I nominate Ari'el Sharon for this post, and I strongly support this nomination.

[Radio] Let us move on to other topics. A short while ago you spoke about the possible eruption of a new war and said this war is inevitable. Do you expect a war soon?

[Bar-Kokhba] I cannot say the war will break out today or tomorrow, but this possibility exists and we are aware of that.

[Radio] Are there specific indications confirming your assessment?

[Bar-Kokhba] Anyone who thinks the Arabs are seeking peace with Israel knows nothing. The Arab countries continue to purchase advanced weapons and war equipment from the eastern and western camps. These countries now have huge arsenals of advanced weapons and I do not think the Arabs seek to possess all these weapons merely to stockpile them, but to use them against us in the next war for which they have been preparing for several years.

[Radio] How do you view the next war?

[Bar-Kokhba] It will be a tough and difficult war and the Arabs will use their surface-to-surface missiles and the modern weapons they have obtained. These are offensive weapons like the F-16, F-15, and MiG-29 planes. Therefore, the Israeli Army will be forced to face a tough war, but we will certainly triumph.

[Radio] Do you think Iraq will launch war on Israel in the wake of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's threats?

[Bar-Kokhba] I question Iraq's ability to launch war against Israel alone. However, the Iraqis will not hesitate to launch an offensive if they secure aid and military support from other Arab countries.

[Radio] Do you expect Syria to stand by Iraq in such a case?

[Bar-Kokhba] I believe that the Syrians will hasten to support Iraq in its war against Israel and will indeed participate in this war. Other Arab countries like Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and Yemen will help Iraq in its war against Israel. I do not rule out Egypt.

[Radio] Do I understand from what you say that Egypt might return to the circle of war against Israel?

[Bar-Kokhba] Of course, and we will be forced to mass our troops on the southern border and reoccupy Sinai in the event of renewed battles on the southern front. This time I do not think we will stop at the banks of the Suez Canal.

[Radio] Do you think the Arabs will use the chemical weapons in their possession in the next war?

[Bar-Kokhba] I do not think the Arabs will dare to use this weapon as they realize full well that Israel has destructive weapons and they will pay a very heavy price if they use chemical weapons.

[Radio] Will this be the last war with the Arabs after which it would be possible to reach a comprehensive peace?

[Bar-Kokhba] I do not expect this and the region will witness further wars. Whenever the Arabs have a chance they will again try to destroy the State of Israel and the conflict will continue for generations to come.

Sources Deny Existence of Bar-Kokhba Interview

Egyptian Statement Rejected

JN1206184090 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World
1430 GMT 12 Jun 90

[Text] High-level political sources today rejected a statement by an Egyptian official spokesman that accused Israel of preparing to launch a fresh war against certain Arab states. The Egyptian spokesman cited remarks attributed to the Israel Defense Forces assistant chief of staff.

The official source said that this statement is nothing more than a tempest in a teacup, affirming that the elements to which these remarks are attributed are marginal and have been reprimanded. The source stated that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir attaches great importance to Egypt's role in the peace process. This is the true position of the Israeli Government, and it is regrettable that Egypt attaches importance to remarks made by marginal elements, the source concluded.

Army Spokesman Denies Remarks

TA1306061290 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew
13 Jun 90 pp 1, 4

[Report by military correspondent Avi Bnayahu]

[Text] Major General Moshe Bar-Kokhba has never made, neither on IDF Radio nor in any other media, the remarks attributed to him by the Kuwaiti paper AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM, the Israeli Army spokesman stated yesterday.

On 5 June the Kuwaiti paper published an interview which allegedly had been conducted a month earlier with Gen. Bar-Kokhba, a special adviser to the chief of staff. The lengthy interview is entitled "General Bar-Kokhba: The Next War Is Imminent and Inevitable. We Will Conquer the Sinai and We Will Not Stop at the Suez Canal." As said, the Israeli Army spokesman has categorically denied that such remarks were ever made. Nevertheless, by the time the denial was issued, the media worldwide published the remarks quoting the Kuwaiti paper. Egypt took a very serious view of the report, and high-level sources in Cairo this week approached their counterparts in Jerusalem asking for explanations and expressing their anger and astonishment.

The Israeli Army spokesman says: "The report in the Kuwaiti paper is totally unfounded and, of course, the illogical remarks quoted in the Kuwaiti paper are not Israeli Government policy. We are sorry that these remarks, which made the Egyptian Government approach the Israeli Government for clarifications, were published in the media before the Israeli Government had time to check them out and notify Egypt that they were totally untrue."

The interview published by the Kuwaiti paper quotes "comments" made by Gen. Bar-Kokhba about the need to quell the intifadah and his remarks about the next war "which would be difficult and ruthless but which we, Israel, would win."

Our military correspondent points out that Gen. Bar-Kokhba has not given any interview whatsoever to IDF Radio in the past year.

Security Sources Cited on Planned Air Strikes

JN1306061690 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic
9 Jun 90 pp 1, 23

[Text] The enemy radio has cited senior Israeli security sources as saying the Israeli Air Force Command has recently singled out four F-16 and F-15 Eagle air squadrons, each consisting of six aircraft, for the purpose of carrying out distant air operations, particularly against Libya or Iraq.

The sources added that these squadrons are currently stationed in the Oweyda [name as published] military airport in the Negev, away from the other warplanes at this airport, and are commanded by an Israeli Air Force staff colonel who had earlier taken part in the air strike against the Iraqi nuclear reactor when he was only a captain. He also took part in the famous air encounter in the Lebanese al-Biq'a Valley in 1982. He was promoted to the rank of major immediately afterward. He also participated in the air strike against the PLO offices in Tunis, after which he was promoted to lieutenant colonel. Recently he became a colonel and assumed the command of the abovementioned special air squadrons for distant air operations.

These air squadrons, known at the Israeli Air Force Command as "the hurricane," conduct daily 50-90 minute air drills.

In another development and according to the enemy radio, the Israeli security sources revealed that sharp differences occurred between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and enemy Chief of Staff General Dan Shomron following the seaborne operation which was carried out by a fedayeen group belonging to the Palestine Liberation Front. The sources indicated that, in his capacity as defense minister, Shamir contacted the chief of staff one day after the sea operation and asked him to issue immediate orders to General Avihu Bin-Nun, commander of the Israeli Air Force, to send Israeli Air Force squadrons to strike at specific targets in Lebanon and Libya within 48 hours in response to the seaborne operation. Shomron, however, rejected Shamir's request and said carrying out a distant air strike against Libya, for example, requires advance planning, that drawing up an appropriate plan for such an operation needs more time, and that several important aspects of such an operation need to be studied.

Citing the enemy radio, the Israeli sources said that Shamir was not convinced with Shomron's reply. He became angry and threatened to terminate Shomron's military service as chief of staff.

In yet another development, the enemy radio said that 35 Syrian military pilots arrived in Libya several days ago to temporarily serve in the Libyan Air Force following orders from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. The Syrian pilots are expected to stay in Libya from two to three months until the tension resulting from the fedayeen seaborne operation and the accusation of Libya's involvement in the operation is over.

The radio quoted Israeli security sources as saying that the Syrian pilots will work on the Libyan Mig-23, Mig-25, and Sukhoi-24 fighters, to confront the Israeli planes in the event of an Israeli air aggression against Libya in response to the fedayeen seaborne operation. The sources pointed out that there are more than 15 Palestinian fighter pilots working in the Libyan Air Force, who are in charge of commanding Libyan Mig fighters and helicopter gunships. The Israeli sources said that more than 20 Syrian pilots had worked in the Libyan Air Force for some time in the past, but returned to their country more than two years ago.

Shamir Declares 'No Intention To Attack Syria'

TA1306044490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
0400 GMT 13 Jun 90

[Text] Prime Minister Shamir has warned Syria against launching an attack against Israel. Shamir also says his new government will invest a great effort in putting down the Palestinian uprising. The prime minister was speaking in Qiryat Ata. Sylvia Leif reports:

Speaking at the press conference yesterday evening in Qiryat Ata, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir expressed his full confidence in the new government's ability to quell the intifadah. This government, he said, will spare no effort in doing so. Shamir also stressed the government's determination to encourage a steady flow of immigrants to Israel.

[Begin recording] [Leif] What is your response to President Gorbachev's threat to suspend Russian immigration to Israel unless he is reassured that they won't settle in the territories?

[Shamir] Well, everybody knows that there is no Israeli policy to direct the new immigrants to any specific place in the country, not in the territories, and not elsewhere. Everyone who is coming to Israel is free to go wherever he prefers, and this is the reality. The Soviet diplomats here know it and if the Soviets want to know exactly the details of this policy, they can know it by talking with our representatives in Soviet Russia.

[Leif] And your answer to Syria's threat of war?

[Shamir] Well, the Syrians know that there is not any reason for war between Israel and Syria. We have no intention to attack Syria and if the Syrians have such intentions they have to know that Israel is capable to defend itself.

[Leif] What are your immediate future steps going to be towards the peace process?

[Shamir] Well, we will continue all our efforts in this framework of the peace process. We will talk with the United States, with Egypt, and we will look for any means that could bring some progress in this process.
[end recording]

UN Envoy Invited To Investigate Territories

TA1306045490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
0400 GMT 13 Jun 90

[Excerpt] In a change of policy, the new government of Yitzhaq Shamir now supports the sending of a UN envoy to the territories to investigate Palestinian conditions. Israel originally said it would not cooperate with any UN team sent to the area. Mark Weiss reports:

Announcing the major change of policy, Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, Yohanan Bein, said the government will cooperate with an envoy sent by UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar to investigate conditions in the territories. Last month Israel said it would not allow any UN envoy to investigate conditions in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza in the wake of the killing of seven Palestinian laborers by an apparently deranged Israeli gunman at Rishon Leziyyon. [passage omitted]

Shamir To Give USSR Immigration Clarification

TA1206180190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1605 GMT 12 Jun 90

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is in Qiryat Ata this evening where he will be granted honorary citizenship. Commenting on Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's remarks linking the new Israeli Government and war, Shamir said it was just a threat. Our correspondent Nati Zilberman reports:

[Begin recording] [Zilberman] [passage omitted] Commenting on the Syrian president's remarks about the link between the hawkish Israeli Government and an imminent war, the prime minister called them futile threats.

[Shamir] The day we hear there is a dovish government in Syria we will also form a dovish government. Then, I hope, there will be no danger of war. But, I think that now, too, there is no danger of war. Those remarks were unnecessary and extremist, and we do not want to be goaded by such words. I think they are mere threats, and there will be no war.

[Zilberman] As for Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's statement [about calling off Jewish emigration from the USSR if the immigrants are directed to the territories], the prime minister said: Gorbachev knows the truth.

[Shamir] I am convinced that the Soviet Government knows the truth. They can verify it through their diplomats in Israel and our diplomats in the Soviet Union. We will contact the diplomatic envoys of the Soviet Government and we will make this clear to them. This will not be the first time that we have done that, we have done as much in the past. So, we will once again make that clear to them.

[Zilberman] The prime minister also commented on the intifadah, saying that the government will take firm action and will adopt all possible measures to finish the intifadah, as he phrased it. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Shamir on Arab Reaction to Government, PLO

TA1206193490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1700 GMT 12 Jun 90

[Text] Prime Minister Shamir says his government's priority will be the emigration and absorption of Soviet Jews, but he rejected the description by Arab states of the government as a war government. The prime minister, speaking to reporter Jack Katzenell, said Israel would make tremendous efforts to revive the Middle East peace process.

[Begin recording] [Shamir] It's clear that we will make very important efforts to make progress in our efforts for getting peace with the Arab world. And the success of this effort will depend mainly on the good will and understanding of our neighbors. I think that we have good solutions for the most important problems concerning the Palestinian Arabs, and if it will be readiness

to talk with us and to come towards us with an understanding of our positions and interests, I am sure that it is possible to find in the not-very-far future a positive solution.

[Katzenell] Prime Minister, what is your reaction to the hints from the U.S. Administration that they are going to suspend the dialogue with the PLO?

[Shamir] Well, everybody knows my position. I would prefer to wait for a decision of the U.S. Government in the right direction. [end recording]

New Shamir Line Differs 'Sharply' With Baker
TA1306060190 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 13 Jun 90 pp 1, 12

[Report by diplomatic correspondent David Makovsky]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir yesterday indicated that future talks with Palestinians must occur alongside progress in peace talks with the Arab world, and said negotiations would be conducted only with such Palestinians as accept the idea of autonomy for residents of the administered areas.

Shamir's new conditions, which he laid out in an interview with THE JERUSALEM POST—the first elaboration of policy since his government was installed on Monday—signalled a hardline posture.

Shamir dismissed the idea that progress could be made in talks with the Palestinians, without the simultaneous willingness of Arab states to make peace with Israel. "It is impossible to conceive that we could reach any sort of serious understandings between us and the Palestinian sector, without further understanding and progress in the relations between Israel and the Arab states."

The premier also said the only eligible Palestinian interlocutors for talks with Israel are those who say in advance that they seek autonomy. "There is nothing to discuss with those among the Palestinian-Arab circles who are opposed to autonomy. There is nothing to discuss with them," Shamir said.

"I want them (the U.S.) to understand our intentions, and I want to make it clear that a dialogue between Israel and Arab representatives of Judaea, Samaria and Gaza cannot succeed without prior agreement between the parties that the goal is to advance within the framework of Camp David, that is autonomy."

Shamir's statement sharply contrasts with a formula agreed to by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Foreign Minister Moshe Arens last February, saying that all Palestinians living in the territories are eligible for a Cairo-based Israel-Palestinian dialogue.

At the same time, Shamir said he wanted to improve relations with the U.S. but did not go into detail. When asked how the U.S. will accept Israel's new policy, he said, "negotiations for resolving territorial conflicts

between various countries take years. You can take examples from the whole world. It cannot go along at what is known as an American tempo."

Shamir said his government has absolutely no plans to build any new settlements in the West Bank and Gaza. At the same time, he said he plans to develop existing settlements. "The emphasis will be on the existence and the strengthening of the now existing settlements. There must be some development; one cannot mark time." When asked how his new government would deal differently with the intifada, Shamir said, "as far as the intifada is concerned, there may be more emphasis on protecting the settlements in Judaea and Samaria because the (Jewish) population there is suffering." He did not elaborate.

Meanwhile, Shamir said cabinet decision-making on major policy issues would be decided by an inter-ministerial foreign affairs and defence committee, which would replace the inner cabinet of the last government. Shamir said he hasn't decided upon the composition of the body, but did say that every party in the coalition would be represented in the forum.

In reaction to Shamir's remarks, Labour leader Shim'on Peres told THE POST last night that Shamir's comments mark the "end of the peace process."

"If we condition progress on talks with Palestinians on talks with Arab states," Peres said, we will have negotiations with neither. The new conditions he set for the type of Palestinian negotiators mark a deviation from the current peace process. The Israel position always has been to negotiate without pre-conditions. If there are conditions, there are no negotiations."

Former Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin declined to comment until he reads the full excerpts of the Shamir interview, which are to appear in THE JERUSALEM POST on Friday.

Levi Discusses Resumption of Ally Dialogue

TA1206181490 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 12 Jun 90

[Interview with Foreign Minister David Levi by political correspondent Shlomo Ganor, immediately after the group photo of the new Cabinet at the presidential residence on 12 June—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Levi] If you ask me what the first steps should be, they are to revive that open and sincere dialogue with partners and allies. I will devote my most concerted efforts to this. The Cabinet wants it.

We must again talk frankly with the U.S. Administration and, to the extent that this is possible, present Israel's main points and the fundamental, vital things over which what I would call an understanding—rather than an illusion—should be established. This should be coupled with an attempt to promote peace, because this is

our aspiration—the aspiration of every Israeli, and certainly that of this government.

[Ganor] Is the U.S. Administration's decision to suspend its talks with the PLO a step in the direction you have in mind?

[Levi] We have already seen that this dialogue between the Americans and the PLO leads nowhere; it will only create difficulties and provide a cover for terrorist and other such acts. We have learned that this indeed is the case. The Americans must understand that our desire for peace is likewise anchored in our wish to prevent any harm from befalling our citizens.

[Ganor] Mr. Foreign Minister, what kind of role do you intend for Egypt to play in the peace process, if at all?

[Levi] We have peace with Egypt. Israel did its best to strengthen that peace, and will continue to do so. Egypt is an important element, and we regard it as a very significant element in our region. We will do everything to foster an understanding with it in order to go back to the principles that underlie the Camp David accords, to which Egypt was a partner. We will do everything in our power to be able to reach an understanding and the advancement of peace without crises, God forbid.

[Ganor] Would a visit to Cairo be feasible?

[Levi] There is no place or country which offers a chance for an understanding and an open dialogue, or which can contribute to peace, that I will not ultimately visit.

[Ganor] Mr. Deputy Prime Minister [referring to Levi's other Cabinet post], you must be aware of the negative reaction regarding the image of this government.

[Levi] Its actions will prove that whatever people say about it simply does not accurately express its aspirations: peace, while steadfastly insisting on its survival and the maintenance of the vital conditions for its well-being and security. It is therefore necessary to talk openly and do everything to create an understanding with all the elements in the international political arena.

Editorial Says New Government Will Not Survive

TA1206191790 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic
9 Jun 90 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Congratulations to Israel!"]

[Text] We congratulate Israel on its new government—the right-wing extremist government headed by Shamir and the Likud Party. After difficult labor pains lasting 42 days, Shamir succeeded in forming his government by striking deals with the right-wing radical parties and the national religious parties, and combining these different contradictions under one roof. This government can best be described as a test tube baby!

The new government will begin its difficult journey not only with the existence of fundamental differences

between the various parties which comprise the narrow-based coalition, but with the existence of deep conflicts and rivalries within the Likud Party itself. If the situation in the Middle East had been normal, perhaps such a government could have survived, but this government is facing many problems. These problems begin with the arrival of tens of thousands of immigrants, the security and military situation, international relations, and end with the difficult economic situation. Each of these problems could exhaust any government even if it were to consist of a broad-based coalition.

Most important of all is the sensitive situation with the United States. Israel presented a valuable gift in return for Washington's recent use of the veto at the UN Security Council preventing the dispatch of a fact-finding mission to the occupied territories. Many questions arise at present: What will this government say to Baker's initiative and to the U.S. Administration, which has tried to extricate the region from the deadlock to which it has reached due to the Likud's negative stances and its rejection of ending the stalemate of the peace process?

If the Likud itself is divided over the Camp David accords, which are rejected by the Palestinians and the Arabs, what will be the case in a coalition with the extreme right wing and the likes of Ge'ula Kohen, Rafa'el Eytan, and Rehav'am Ze'evi?

In trying to patch up these fragments, Shamir appears flexible compared to those elements in his government from the extreme right wing who are allied with him. Shamir will discover very soon that the previous national unity government was like a honeymoon compared to the present hardline coalition.

Congratulations to the Israeli people on their new extremist government. The hardliners and the radicals have gained influence and power. This government will work not only to harm relations with the United States, but also with the Soviet Union and Europe.

Congratulations to Israel, because the region will move toward extremism and ferment, the peace process will fail, and the United States will be unable to control the tendencies in the region. The new Israeli Government, besides heating up the situation in the region, will collide with the inclination of American Jews, who are behind every blessing befallen on Israel and who have spared no effort in urging the U.S. Administration to search for a way to advance the peace process. Therefore, congratulations to Israel not only on its isolation from the international community, but also on its isolation from the world's Jews!

Shamir knows better than anyone else that his newborn will not have a long life and will drag the region into new catastrophes. The world around us has changed and there is no longer a conflict between the two superpowers since the Soviet Union gave up its role as a superpower.

On the Arab level, as a result of the summit resolutions in Saddam's capital—where the Arab nations triumphed

by elevating the Arab solidarity summit to the level of events, thus allowing it to face the challenges with a revolutionary Arab spirit—the diplomatic and strategic game in the region has changed and an Israeli Government of such a caliber cannot survive.

Editorial on Deterioration of U.S. Peace Process

TA1206170090 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English
11 Jun 90 p 4

[Editorial: "A Dismal Outlook"]

[Text] It does not seem that the U.S.-sponsored peace process is going anywhere. And it appears that because it is not going anywhere—in other words, has failed—the United States is trying to save face by putting the blame on the weakest link in the chain: the PLO.

This explains the United States' joy at the Palestine Liberation Front's aborted seaborne attack on Israeli shores May 30. This attempt created the opportunity for the United States to divert attention from its impotence and weakness in imposing a settlement on Israel. It gave the United States an excuse to claim that the PLO had reneged on its words regarding "terrorism," and justified the United States' lack of interest in its own peace initiative, which it claims was devised to agree with the PLO's promises and the opening of a dialogue between the United States and the PLO.

The United States adopted Yitzhaq Shamir's May 14, 1989 so-called peace plan. It demanded that the Arab countries and the PLO accept it as the basis for starting a peace process. The Arabs and the PLO accepted the plan after it was modified by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's five points. Since then, the United States and the PLO, in addition to some Arab countries, have been working on making the peace process succeed.

Israel's national unity government fell in March of this year because of Shamir's rejection of his own plan as modified by Baker. While the United States recognizes very clearly that Israel is behind the difficulties facing the peace process and that the PLO has done everything it could to help peace efforts, it nevertheless did not attempt to do anything at any time to make this feeling clear to anyone. On the contrary, all its actions pointed in the direction of backing Israel no matter what. The most recent example was the U.S. veto at the Security Council, which killed an international attempt to give protection to Palestinian civilians in the occupied territories. Rather than abstain, the United States chose to support Israel's abuse of human rights.

The United States has a certain prestige to worry about. When this prestige was being threatened by Israel's strong rejection of all U.S. peace proposals, and when the United States was unable and unwilling to do anything about the matter, it began looking for a convincing distraction. The PLF's aborted mission gave it the impetus it needed to get out of this corner. The result was the threats against continuing the dialogue with the PLO unless the latter accepts certain demands which the United States knows the PLO, which also has a certain prestige to protect, will never agree to under the present circumstance. The United States was quick to make these demands simply in order to make it more difficult for the PLO to meet them, and thereby find an excuse to kill the current peace efforts and blame it on the PLO.

The United States also knows that Palestinians in the occupied territories will not do anything if the PLO is not involved. This means that the entire U.S.-sponsored peace process, which in any case stressed a role for the Palestinians in the occupied territories rather than the PLO, will be scrapped.

This is our assessment of the situation. We hope we are wrong because the alternative to peace will be disastrous.

Al-Qasim Asks U.S. To 'Give Peace a Chance'

JN1206201090 Amman Television Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 12 Jun 90

[Text] Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, spoke in Amman to our political affairs correspondent Salim 'Ali Dhiyab about threats to the region by Israeli extremism following the formation of the new Israeli government and its adoption of policies described as the most threatening ever to the Middle East peace process.

[Begin recording] [Dhiyab] Your excellency, now that Shamir has formed his extremist right-wing government, what is the impact of this on Palestinian, Arab, and international spheres?

[Al-Qasim] To begin with, I would like to remind you that his majesty the king has for several months been warning not only the Arabs, but also the Americans, who have influence on the Israeli policy, against such an eventuality. Regarding the impact on the Palestinian arena, I believe that the PLO is the party that should express a view. I honestly believe that this development on the Israeli scene is an Israeli attempt to undermine any remaining possibility of bringing about a just peace in this region. On the international level, it is absolutely clear to those who have read or heard the new government's political statement delivered by Shamir yesterday evening that the statement demolished all efforts made thus far to achieve the hoped-for peace in the region. His insistence that the West Bank and Gaza be part of Israel, with no leeway for negotiations, puts an end to the most important equation in the search for the desired peace. When his majesty the king warned against the emergence of this eventuality, the Arab position was, up until the Baghdad summit, still cohesive and supportive of the peace process. There existed the Palestinian peace initiative, which was and still is enjoying full Arab support. On the other hand, we see a new, unprecedented Israeli government throwing away any chance left for peace. This government wants not only to maintain the status quo, but also—we do not rule this out—to embark on acts that create instability in the region. We think this is the right time to turn our eyes to the United States—the only country with influence on Israel—regarding this new, aggressive policy that emerged yesterday evening from the formation of the government.

Today, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker will have a meeting with the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and there must be a clear official U.S. position on these recent developments. We are fully aware that Shamir has basically been against any idea leading to peace. He is among those who voted against Camp David. He rejected President Husni Mubarak's initiative. He rejected James Baker's initiative. He even shirked the election idea which he proposed in his statement to the previous government. All these signs clearly indicate that any attempt to approach peace cannot be supported by Shamir. This government is a harbinger of danger, and means that the region could now become a victim to

instability as a result of this trend, unless there is someone to stop it. Those who oppose this policy are not few—even in Israel—not because they want to achieve peace, but in order to safeguard Israel. This is how some Israeli politicians view matters. However, we appeal to the United States to help give peace a chance and to maintain the basic rights through which we can attain peace. These rights are compatible with the U.S. notion of trading land for peace and with the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. This is a natural right recognized by the United States. The current U.S. position on the aggressive Israeli trend will be the criterion and will reveal to what extent the United States is committed to security and stability in this region.

[Dhiyab] Your excellency, in this case, what would the U.S. position be after the suspension of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue?

[Al-Qasim] Of course, as a result of the statement issued by the PLO yesterday, it seems that the U.S. side is satisfied. The U.S. arena is by no means void of continued attempts to strike at the U.S.-PLO dialogue. We believe that the position adopted by the Palestinian leadership—beginning with the Palestine National Council when it adopted the historic resolutions in Algiers, which were followed by Mr. 'Arafat's speech—is a strategic position which is being adhered to. It is not reasonable to punish the entire Palestinian people for every misdeed that may appear here or there. These people have extended a hand for peace, but we have so far seen only attempts to cut off this hand.

[Dhiyab] Thank you, your excellency.

[Al-Qasim] Thank you. [end recording]

Editorial Denounces U.S. Support of Israel

JN1306105490 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic
13 Jun 90 Second Edition pp 1, 12

[Editorial: "U.S. Blessings and Reassurances to Shamir's New Government"]

[Text] We do not know why there is this constant U.S. insistence on supporting every new Israeli Government. However, we view the U.S. rush to support this new Israeli Government as "luxurious hypocrisy!"

We also do not know why the U.S. officials rush to reassure Israel that it enjoys superiority over the Arabs. We were surprised when the U.S. secretary of defense reaffirmed his country's commitment to assuring Israel's security and maintaining its qualitative military superiority over the Arab world. We as Arabs admit that Israel has achieved qualitative military superiority, especially as the United States has pledged to place its war arsenal at the disposal of the racist, aggressive Zionist entity.

Yes, we know all this, and there was no need for the United States to repeat it, as it means nothing to us because it is natural for the U.S. Administration to take

such a position—as it has since former President Johnson began his oneupmanship in satisfying Israel.

If we believe in the existence of an organic relationship between Washington and Tel Aviv that cannot be separated by words, speeches, or diplomacy, we can, for the first time in our contemporary history, take the bull by the horns and decide whether we have or must have the ability to confront that fierce aggression or surrender unconditionally to what is being dictated to us by the aggressive U.S.-Israeli alliance.

When we view the equation this way, and it must be viewed this way, we should reconsider our calculations right from the beginning and draw up our priorities in light of the fact that we are facing an arrogant, superior, and racist Zionist force supported by a superpower, the United States.

Shamir, Sharon, Levy, or Arens cannot cause any harm to the Arabs unless he is given the U.S. green light. The U.S. fleet which cruises in the Mediterranean can give that light at any moment.

Also, Shamir and his clique are trying to absorb the new Jewish immigrants from all over the world in the occupied Palestinian homeland. We all are aware of the dangers surrounding the Arabs as a result of this immigration, which is unmatched in world history. We should understand that the large-scale international Zionist conspiracy is aimed against our existence as an Arab and Islamic nation, from the ocean to the Gulf, and not only within the borders of Greater Israel, which are not yet known exactly.

Hence, so as not to deceive ourselves or one another, we should admit that aggression is at the door and we must adhere to the land with all the elements of our existence because this is the only way to foil the large-scale conspiracy, repulse the aggressors, and turn their evil back on them.

King, Soviet Minister Discuss Israeli 'Threat'

*JN1206164590 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 12 Jun 90*

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at the Royal Hashemite Court today Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovskiy, who conveyed to his majesty the greetings and appreciation of President Gorbachev and the Soviet leadership. The Soviet official also gave his majesty a message from President Gorbachev dealing with the results of the Soviet-U.S. summit, especially those pertaining to the Middle East.

His Majesty King Husayn told the Soviet official that Jordan is deeply concerned about achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region. He stressed the need to continue efforts to achieve peace through an international conference. His majesty reviewed the developments propelling the Middle East toward more danger, as well as the lack of stability at this stage, noting the

gravity of the Jewish immigration and the spread of mass destruction weapons, especially because some efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East are a far cry from the true goals of the desired peace.

His majesty also said that the makeup of the new Israeli Government is a serious threat to the region's stability. The pillars of that government make it the most radical Israeli Government; it has clearly announced its rejection of talks with the PLO and its refusal to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories. His Majesty added that the most dangerous factor in Jewish immigration is that it is being carried out under the slogan of human rights, while the way in which it is being carried out and the declared position of the Israeli Government represent a direct aggression against the rights of the Palestinian individual.

His majesty also said that the international changes—which we welcome as an inevitable result of longstanding efforts to protect our world and human family—should not endanger our region or its peoples as the nature of these changes pose no danger. He also stressed the need to promote relations between Jordan and the Soviet Union based on safeguarding mutual interests.

The Soviet official said his country is concerned about developments in the Middle East, as well as this region's right to stability and a just peace. He pointed out that a unified Arab position is very important for reaching a just settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The Soviet official also said his country is still committed to President Gorbachev's statement at the end of the U.S.-Soviet summit, to the effect that the Soviet Union would reconsider its position on Jewish emigration if Israel insisted on settling them in the occupied Arab territories, and that the Soviet rejection of settlement was still valid. The meeting was attended by the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, his majesty the king's political adviser, and the Soviet charge d'affaires in Amman.

Editorial Views Shamir 'Challenge' to Peace Effort

*JN1206100690 Amman AL-RAY in Arabic 12 Jun 90
pp 1, 22*

[Editorial: "Israeli Extremism at its Peak"]

[Text] In light of the concepts and aims governing Israel, it is only natural that someone like Shamir should form the new government. It is also natural that an old Shamir be replaced by a new Shamir. After hostility has been declared and practiced against peace, justice and stability in the Middle East, an extremist government was bound to take over in Israel and persist in pushing this entity toward the abyss.

Shamir was not satisfied with forming a government in an alliance with the most extreme Israeli political forces, but went further by appointing in his cabinet ministers who had previously criticized him for his "moderate"

stands on very grave issues such as the intifadah, settlement, expansion, and planning and implementing more wars. Shamir will be captive, therefore, not only to his own sanguinary extremism but also to his ministers whose racism and hostility toward rights, justice and stability has gone beyond all limits in this region and beyond.

Shamir's coming to power amid the current changes taking place in our world is a blatant and racist Zionist challenge to all efforts that have been exerted and all the results that have been achieved by the world toward a comprehensive peace, a just settlement of conflicts, and a complete end to all hot and cold wars which have exhausted mankind. If Shamir's coming to power is a declaration of a long war against us, as a homeland and a nation, it is also a continuation of Israel's suicidal process, which began with Begin and is now witnessing its peak. It might well be a process entailing grave dangers for us at this stage, but these dangers might also bring about the end of the Zionist entity both as an ideology and as a state.

From now on we should watch the direction of U.S.-Israeli relations. Will they witness a true point of disagreement, or will they be further strengthened? We should also watch how the world will view a government which advocates extremism, expansion, and aggression against man's land and rights. Will this government be the subject of world concern, or will it be allowed to pursue its policy, and thus lead the region to a big explosion for which everyone would pay dearly, including the Israelis?

Steps Implemented To Deal With Water Shortages

JN0406091390 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
4 Jun 90 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—The Ministry of Water and Irrigation has embarked on steps to implement directives by Prime Minister Mudar Badran on providing sufficient

water resources for domestic, agricultural and industrial purposes, according to Minister of Water and Irrigation Dawud Khalaf.

In a statement to AL-RA'Y Arabic daily the minister said that plans had been laid for building 10 dams in the Kingdom by the end of 1991 in a bid to collect water for different purposes.

The ministry has already finalised designs for setting up at least two dams during 1990 and has embarked on studies and surveys for the construction of the other dams in various regions during the coming year.

The prime minister last month declared 1992 as the year of water for Jordan and instructed the minister of water and irrigation to carry out studies on water resources in the Kingdom and to build 10 earth dams to collect water.

Badran also urged the ministry to conduct a study on the water situation in various basins to determine the amounts of the Kingdom's water reserves and means of replenishing them.

The ministry's Secretary-General Mu'tazz al-Bilbaysi last month warned that Jordan expects a severe water shortage in the near future and will have to turn its attention to the prospects of benefitting from non-traditional water resources like recycling treated wastewater to be used in farming, desalination of water and the utilisation of water to be collected from al-Yarmuk River in al-Wahdah Dam.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra last month Khalaf said that the total amount of water used for domestic purposes in Jordan was estimated at 180 million cubic metres annually and this is expected to rise to 260 million by the year 2005, due to population growth and vast development.

For this reason, the minister said, the country has to seek fresh water resources and rationalise consumption.

Ja'ja' Blames Hubayqah for Murder of Iranians

NC1206115790 Paris AFP in English 1140 GMT
12 Jun 90

[Text] Beirut, June 12 (AFP) - Christian militia leader Samir Ja'ja' said Tuesday that four Iranians kidnapped by his Lebanese Forces [LF] militia eight years ago had been killed and blamed a former militia leader for their murder.

Mr. Ja'ja', in remarks cited by the press here, said he would soon provide "concrete proof" that Iranian charge d'affaires Mohsen Musavi, an embassy staffer and driver and a photographer for Iran's official IRNA news agency died in 1982.

"The Iranians were liquidated immediately after their abduction," at an LF roadblock north of Beirut, said Mr. Ja'ja', who has led the militia since 1986. That year he took over the job after ousting Elie Hubayqah, a senior LF official who at the time of the abductions in 1982 was head of security and intelligence.

Mr. Ja'ja' accused Mr. Hubayqah of responsibility for the murder of the four and said he was currently gathering information to back up his claims which he would make public "in a few days or in a few weeks."

Iran played a key role in April in helping to secure the release of two American hostages held in Lebanon by pro-Iranian factions.

Tehran then asked Washington for a "goodwill" gesture, including information on the fate of the missing Iranians.

Last month Mr. Bush said the United States had learned that the four had been killed but Tehran denied the report and on Tuesday an influential Iranian newspaper, Kayhan International, called for "concrete proof".

Papal Nuncio, Sfiayr Visit West Beirut Leaders

NC1206163390 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1400 GMT 12 Jun 90

[Text] A significant development on the level of political and diplomatic moves today was the tour during which Papal Nuncio in Lebanon Pablo Puente and Maronite Patriarch Mar Nasrallah Butrus Sfiayr visited President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, and their Eminence Dr. Muhammad Rashid Qabbani and Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din to discuss various aspects of the developments.

Observers note the fact that the Papal Nuncio took Patriarch Sfiayr with him during his visit with the officials as a renewal of the Vatican's recognition of the legitimate authority and a change from the Vatican's previous stands which favored parties other than the legitimate authority.

Syrian, Iranian Officials Leave for Damascus

NC0906170490 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1615 GMT 9 Jun 90

[Text] Brigadier Ghazi Kan'an [head of Syrian intelligence in Lebanon] and Iranian Ambassador in Damascus

Mohammad Hasan Akhtari have left for the Syrian capital to continue consultations and endeavors to end the Amal-Hizballah dispute. Informed sources said that the first round of talks has not achieved any tangible results, adding that they expect the consultations to resume within one week. The sources said that the contacts will focus on defining the means for reaching an agreement to end the conflict between the Amal Movement and Hizballah.

Junblatt Predicts War, Suggests Army Changes

NC1206204890 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain
in Arabic to Lebanon 1900 GMT 12 Jun 90

[Excerpt] Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party, said in a statement today that the area is embarking on a war following the formation of the new Shamir government. He added that UN Security Council Resolution 425 has become like Resolution 242. He said it is advisable and necessary to put the Lebanese Army at the disposal of the Syrian military command to protect Syria's flank. He added that the Lebanese Army should become a division attached to the Syrian Army stationed in Lebanon and that all sensitivities and formalities regarding sovereignty should be removed because national security is more important. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister on Defections From 'Awn's Army

NC1106160790 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1415 GMT 11 Jun 90

[Text] Defense Minister Dr. Albert Mansur has stated that well over 2,000 soldiers and noncommissioned officers and over 200 officers from General 'Awn's forces have joined the legitimate army command. He said that the fighting in the eastern area was an inevitable result of the way the rebel officer has behaved since he assumed power. Other results of this behavior are the destruction of the army and the blow that has been struck at its morale under a bad and reckless leadership. He noted that there are regional and international balances that prevented the legitimate government from entering the eastern area. He pointed out that the government is seeking to ensure that these balances enable the legitimate government to extend its authority throughout Lebanon.

Explosion Reported at Lebanese Forces Barracks

NC1206122990 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain
in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 12 Jun 90

[Text] 'Awn's media report that an explosion occurred today at a barracks belonging to the Ja'ja' forces in Judaydat Ghazir, causing several casualties among gunmen and civilians. The explosion also seriously damaged the barracks and nearby houses and set fire to a gas station.

'Awn's media added that the Lebanese Forces men threw up a cordon around the site of the explosion and prevented journalists and citizens from approaching the area.

'Fundamentalists' Attack Israeli-SLA Position

NC1306094190 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0915 GMT 13 Jun 90

[Text] Fundamentalists used 107-mm rockets to shell an assembly point for military vehicles and artillery belonging to the Israeli forces and the South Lebanese Army [SLA] on the Hula hill in the central sector of the south at dawn today.

A statement by the fundamentalists said that the rockets hit their targets, causing material and human losses and setting fire to the position.

The Israeli forces raked the area with machine-gun and mortar fire immediately after the attack.

Al-Hirawi, Al-Huss Call for Material Arab Aid

NC1306090090 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0800 GMT 13 Jun 90

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss have called on the Arabs to provide urgent help to Lebanon to enable it to survive its crisis. They expressed their concern over Arab indifference.

In an interview with a correspondent of the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS in Tunis, President al-Hirawi said that he is considering raising the Lebanese issue before the international community in September. For his part, Dr. al-Huss said: We have not received any material aid from anyone; we have received nothing but mere words and we have nothing to show our people. Beirut is without water and electricity. We need enormous aid just to remain alive until a solution is found.

While calling on the Vatican to denounce and condemn every form of opposition to the al-Ta'if agreement, Prime Minister al-Huss said: I detect a glimpse of light: All partitionist plans have collapsed and people are no longer talking about partition or even federalism. Prime Minister al-Huss described Syria as the backbone of a solution to the Lebanese crisis.

Minister on 'Conspiracy' Against Expatriates

NC1206055590 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0430 GMT 12 Jun 90

[Text] Finance Minister Dr. 'Ali al-Khalil chaired a meeting yesterday during which he discussed the situation and sufferings of the Lebanese community in Africa. He said the government is following with concern the atrocities and attacks to which Lebanese expatriates are being subjected.

Dr. al-Khalil went on to say: I personally believe that this is a reflection of the Zionist conspiracy against Lebanon, because the Lebanese communities in Africa used to enjoy the full confidence of African citizens and officials. However, following the resumption of diplomatic and trade relations between the Israeli enemy and some African states, the conspiracy was launched against the Lebanese communities. The Lebanese Government, he added, attaches great

importance to this issue, and I believe that the government will adopt the necessary measures to protect Lebanese expatriates. Dr. al-Khalil stressed that the persecution of the Lebanese and the obstruction of their business are bound to harm hundreds, or rather thousands, of Lebanese, and any harm that befalls any Lebanese abroad will harm the Lebanese economy because the toiling expatriate transfers his savings to Lebanon to be utilized in economic and social projects in the country.

The finance minister concluded: Proceeding from our national duty, I firmly believe that the government will take the necessary steps to safeguard the Lebanese expatriate.

AFP on Declining Drug Production in Al-Biq'a

NC1306090690 Paris AFP in English 0645 GMT
13 Jun 90

[By Jacques Charmelot]

[Excerpts] Al-Yammunah, Lebanon, June 13 (AFP)—The al-Biq'a Valley in eastern Lebanon, for years an international narcotics haven and a nightmare for Western anti-drug agents, has fallen on hard times: its hashish and opium are no longer marketable.

Stagnation is such that nearly bankrupt farmers now appear prepared to shift to other crops, provided outside help is made available.

While budding Indian hemp or white and purple poppy flowers thrived in the valley just three years ago, more than half the fields along the Ba'labakk-al-Hirmil road—under Syrian army control since 1976—today lie fallow. [passage omitted]

The Israeli authorities have tightened border controls since the outbreak in December 1987 of a Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, thereby stemming the drug flow toward Israel and Egypt.

And 16 uninterrupted months of fighting in Lebanon, since early 1989, have paralyzed traffic at the country's ports—notably Juniyah, controlled by the Lebanese Forces Christian militia.

In the West, meanwhile, customs services have thrown more resources into the fight against drug trafficking. [passage omitted]

Three-quarters of the last two harvests—about 3,000 tonnes of hashish—is stored in granaries, cellars or even farm bedrooms. The 1990 harvest is expected to meet the same fate.

The amount of land set aside for hemp-growing has been sharply reduced and now represents only 10 per cent of the total cultivated in the 1980s, which are now seen as the golden years for the al-Biq'a hashish operation.

Hashish production was about 2,000 tonnes a year in 1988 and 1989, and only a quarter was sold. Output this year is expected to drop to between 300 and 500 tonnes.

Prices have also taken a nosedive in the past three years and many growers are now deep in debt. [passage omitted]

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Press Warns of Shamir Government Consequences

War Preparations Urged

JN1106090090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0445 GMT 11 Jun 90

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The War of Wolves," TISHRIN says: The characteristics of Shamir's new government undoubtedly become clearer, sharper, and more violent where the Arabs, their land, their existence, and fate are concerned. The Zionists then are like wild animals hunting their prey, without any criteria and unrestrained by conscience. The members of the Shamir government began announcing their next plans and programs by concentrating on ignoring all regional facts and situations, particularly the shining contributions of the intifadah and the important equation it has created within the Arab-Israeli conflict equations.

Concluding, AL-BATH [as heard] says: The Arabs, more than ever before, are facing danger. All talk and hope of a just, comprehensive peace in light of the current balances are an illusion and a mirage. Israel, which is working toward war, can be faced on the Arab side by preparations for war as soon as possible, before it is too late, and before they lose more lands and rights.

'Disaster' Expected

JN1206112390 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0845 GMT
12 Jun 90

[Text] Damascus, 12 Jun (SANA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has warned of an inevitable disaster planned by the Israeli Government against the Arabs.

In today's comment, the paper refers to the Likud conference where Shamir presented himself and his government as the government which represents the stand of the majority of Zionist settlers. He characterized the Palestinian intifadah as terrorism which should be crushed as the first task of the government. The government's second task is the absorption of new Jewish emigrants and their incorporation into Israeli society, along with acquiring vast aid from the United States and American Jews.

AL-THAWRAH says: Speaking about his government's policy on the peace issue, Shamir said this policy will not conflict with the aims of Greater Israel. Shamir's remark in the aforementioned conference that a disaster would have befallen Israel if his Zionist rival Peres had formed the government, is nothing but a fallacy and a trick aimed at intimidating the heroes of the intifadah and the Arabs in general, calming the Israelis, and justifying any crazy act before world public opinion.

The paper affirms that Israeli policies and stands are based on constants regardless of which government is in power and what parties or political forces are represented in that government. The paper says there is not a

single party in Israel, from the most extremist to the supposedly most moderate, that calls for abandoning the Greater Israel plan.

AL-THAWRAH concludes: What is taking place in Israel now is sheer madness seeking to inflict disaster on the Arabs. The paper wonders: Will the Arabs be able to avoid this disaster and turn it against its perpetrators?

Shamir Responding to 'Laxness'

JN1306100890 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0445 GMT 13 Jun 90

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper TISHRIN writes about the government of war and expansion formed by Yitzhaq Shamir, whose program includes crushing the intifadah and expanding Jewish settlements. The paper says: Shamir, who rejected peace and aborted any optimism over it, is responding to the Arabs who, whenever Israel escalates its arrogance and preparations for war, show laxness toward the danger. President Hafiz al-Asad warned against this danger when he said: We must all understand that the international and regional conditions are such that the Arabs cannot afford the luxury of idle dialectics, and that the impending danger is not a localized, transitory one—it is a truly crucial danger.

The paper stresses that Shamir's government has come to prove the true nature of Israel's expansionist policy and that Israel does not seek peace. The Arabs must understand this carefully and adopt a practical stand to confront it.

London Talks Acknowledge Need To Restore Ties

PM1206050690 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 7 Jun 90 pp 1-2

[Zaki Shihab report: "Imran Confirms British Foreign Office Denies Meetings with Officials in London at which Relations With Damascus Were Discussed in Secret"]

[Excerpts] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Diplomatic sources in the British capital revealed yesterday that meetings have been held over the past two days between British Foreign Office officials and Mr. 'Adnan 'Imran, Arab League assistant secretary general and former Syrian ambassador to London, during which there was discussion of the importance of restoring British-Syrian diplomatic ties, which were severed in 1986 following the El Al plane incident.

Mr. 'Adnan 'Imran has confirmed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT his meeting with British officials. He said that the meetings did not assume an official nature, but were held within the framework of the friendship between him and those officials. He said he was visiting Britain in his capacity as Arab League assistant secretary general to deliver a lecture. He added that he was heading for Dublin to participate in the Arab-European dialogue meetings to be held today or tomorrow. [passage omitted]

At the London University meeting, Mr. 'Imran said, there was total unanimity about the need to restore British-Syrian relations, in view of the two countries' common interests and Britain's importance in Europe.

He said that he sensed British Foreign Office officials' support for that view. But they stressed the need for a mechanism to implement that intention.

A British Foreign Office official refused to comment on the meetings and their nature, but did not deny their occurrence. He pointed out that any meetings with Mr. 'Imran were held in his capacity as Arab League official, namely, assistant secretary general.

Asked whether there has been a change in the British position toward Syria, the British official recalled British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd's 9 May statement in the House of Commons, when he praised the Syrian Government's help in releasing the hostages and welcomed any efforts exerted in that regard. [passage omitted]

Mr. 'Imran emphasized that Syria has a genuine desire to restore relations with Britain to their previous status, especially as the two sides are now convinced that there was no basis for the tension that tainted their relations and that it is now a thing of the past. [passage omitted]

Al-Asad, Chedli Klibi Meet on Arab Situation

JN0706122090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1115 GMT 7 Jun 90

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi at 1030 today. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. Discussions centered on the current Arab situation and Arab affairs.

Algerian Minister Arrives for Committee Meetings

JN1206083390 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0415 GMT 12 Jun 90

[Excerpt] Damascus—Algerian Education Minister Mohamed El-Mili and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Damascus last night on a visit to Syria that will last for several days. During the visit he will lead the Algerian side to the meetings of the third session of the Syrian-Algerian joint committee for economic, scientific, and technical cooperation, due to begin within the next two days. [passage omitted]

Ba'th Party Official Receives Iraqi Kurd Leader

JN1006190490 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1735 GMT
10 Jun 90

[Text] Damascus, 10 Jun (SANA)—Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, today received Jalal Talbani, secretary general of Iraq's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK].

The meeting dealt with the latest Arab developments and issues of mutual concern to the Ba'th Party and the PUK.

CBS Governor on External Debt, Egyptian Trade

JN1206101690 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
10 Jun 90 p 9

[By Jamal Zayidah]

[Text] Dr. Hisham Mutawalli, governor of the Central Bank of Syria [CBS], has expressed hope that trade between Egypt and Syria will return to the pre-1979 level. He added that the current volume of bilateral trade, which amounts to \$100 million—the figure provided for in the agreement signed by Egypt and Syria in February—must increase during the coming period.

In statements made to AL-AHRAM in Cairo, he said that, in view of the positive development in Egyptian-Syrian ties, it is expected that bilateral economic ties will be further bolstered.

As regards the Syrian economic reform policy, the CBS governor indicated that Syria has not requested IMF cooperation. Syria has neither asked the IMF to draw up adjustment programs for it nor implemented measures demanded by the IMF. Mutawalli added. He went on to say that relations between the two do not go beyond the fact that Syria, as an IMF member state, attends the annual meetings of the IMF.

The CBS governor said that Syria's external nonmilitary debts total some \$4 billion. He added that this indebtedness has not increased because Syria neither sought the help of the Euro-dollar market nor borrowed from world banks. Besides, Syria secured foreign exchange and aid by resorting to international institutions such as the World Bank and regional institutions such as the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, the Arab Monetary Fund, and the Islamic Bank, not to mention official [as published] loans, Mutawalli said.

Mutawalli pointed out that the Syrian balance of trade registered a surplus in Syria's favor last year. He added that this allowed for financing imports. He said that Syria is not currently implementing a policy of privatization, but that this does not mean Syria is not encouraging the private sector and offering it incentives.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Interviewed on Situation, Policies

AU1106163990 Vienna PROFIL in German
11 Jun 90 pp 66-68

[Interview with President Muhammad Najibullah by Mustafa Danesch in Kabul; date not given: "We Need International Help"]

[Text] [Danesch] Mr. President, you yourself are not undisputed in the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA]. Some weeks ago, your own defense minister, Shahnawaz Tanai, from the Khalq Group of the People's Party, tried to overthrow you.

[Najibullah] The coup of Gubulddin Hekmatyar (leader of the Islamic mujahidin Party—the editors) and Shanawaz Tanai was an attempt to frustrate the policy of national reconciliation. They wanted to overthrow the initiator of this policy, that is, the government. This coup was organized under the leadership of the Pakistani Army.

[Danesch] Why do you not admit that this coup was organized by forces within your own party? After all, the Khalq group is against the policy of national reconciliation. Members of this group are still powerful. How do you want to prevent similar actions in the future?

[Najibullah] The frustrated coup of Hekmatyar and Tanai did not have a political background within the party. I want to stress that the old differences between Khalq and Parcham do not exist any longer, they are part of history. It is possible that the present policy of our party does not correspond to the ideas of a few members. However, all our forces are united. We are harmoniously working for the policy of national reconciliation, for the end of the war, and for our country's reconstruction.

[Danesch] You were able to stand your ground militarily. But you were unable to pacify the country. The mujahidin still want to oust you from office. Thus, the fratricide among the Aghans will continue until then. Are you prepared to renounce your office for peace?

[Najibullah] The past has shown that the conflict cannot be solved militarily. I am of the opinion that this can only be achieved by talks and negotiations. However, conditions must not be made before the beginning of the negotiations. The problems cannot be solved by the ignorance of some person or group. The different forces should come together, the dialogue should start, and interferences from abroad should stop. Only under such conditions can permanent peace be achieved.

[Danesch] Zahir, the former shah, is prepared to come back to mediate peace. However, only on condition you abdicate. Are you prepared to do this?

[Najibullah] Not only the former shah, but every patriot should work to bring the war to an end. The pointless war only brings us destruction and misery.

[Danesch] You recently announced a political change. Are you also prepared to renounce the PDPA's monopoly on power?

[Najibullah] In 1987 we adopted a new Constitution. A law on the founding of different political parties was also adopted at that time. Since that time, a pluralist system has existed in our country. After 15 years, the Parliament again became politically active in 1987. Thus, the PDPA already renounced its monopoly on power at that time. Today nine other parties are active in addition to our party.

[Danesch] Although 19 of 25 ministers in your recently established cabinet are without party affiliation, party members still control the most important posts: the Defense, Foreign, Interior, and State Security Ministries. The party actually has the power in the country.

[Najibullah] Of 35 new posts in the new cabinet, 23 posts are filled by nonparty members. Three deputies of the premier do not belong to a party.

[Danesch] Let us come back to the PDPA once again. You described the policy of your party by a nationalist-Islamic orientation. What does this mean? Are you turning your back on socialism?

[Najibullah] Our party never pursued socialist or communist objectives in the past. We emerged from the middle of our Muslim people. We respect the religion of our people.

[Danesch] And how do you want to push through this nationalist-Islamic orientation with the radical party members?

[Najibullah] Nobody in our party is against political changes. However, it is no secret that there are sometimes differences of opinion about the way in which these changes are implemented. In general, all party members recognize the necessity of changes, but also the necessity to change the party's name.

[Danesch] Have you learned from the breakdown of socialism in Eastern Europe? What importance do you attach to perestroika?

[Najibullah] The changes and upheavals you have mentioned are primarily the problems of these countries, but they undoubtedly influence the development process in other regions of the world. Long before these changes and upheavals took place in most socialist countries, we implemented changes in Afghanistan. We announced our policy of national reconciliation only three years ago. Our national interest, that is the end of war and peace in our country, is our guideline in this respect.

[Danesch] You are holding out the prospect of free elections. What should Afghanistan be like, in your opinion? Should it be an Islamic republic, a parliamentary democracy, or even a monarchy?

[Najibullah] In the Republic of Afghanistan the people are the only sovereign authority. The Loya Jirga (a kind

of grand national assembly with the elders of the tribes—editors) and the National Assembly are the organs by means of which the people exercise their rule.

[Danesch] But what is the use of the Loya Jirga if the mujahidin refuses to participate in it?

[Najibullah] The present constitution was adopted by the Loya Jirga three years ago. As regards disarmament and the reduction of the danger of war, great domestic and international changes took place in the past three years. We want to account for these changes through the Loya Jirga. We want to adapt it to the present situation and conditions by revising our constitution.

[Danesch] Despite the change you have announced, the United States continues to support the mujahidin politically and militarily. How do you want to achieve a change in U.S. policy?

[Najibullah] We are not alone. Even in the United States, many social and cultural groups—also in Congress—are trying to convince the U.S. Administration that it should change its policy toward Afghanistan. They are calling on the U.S. Administration to adapt its policy to the facts in Afghanistan and the region.

[Danesch] The U.S. Administration is in favor of free elections under UN supervision, but it calls for your resignation.

[Najibullah] The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan always insisted on free elections in Afghanistan, but it also stressed that this must not be made subject to conditions. The United States should finally stop dictating to us who or what group should leave or determine the political scene in Afghanistan. The Afghan people should decide on their future themselves and in free elections.

[Danesch] Would a Nicaraguan model be conceivable for you in Afghanistan?

[Najibullah] In my opinion, the implementation of free elections in Nicaragua was a good example for the solution of national conflicts, also in other regions of the world.

[Danesch] Despite all the agreements, the Nicaraguan contras have not yet laid down their arms. Suppose free elections are held in Afghanistan and the name of the new president is again Najibullah, but the mujahidin refuse to lay down their arms. What will happen then?

[Najibullah] The elections in Afghanistan must take place under better conditions. First an agreement on an armistice must be made. Then all countries must stop their arms supplies to the warring parties.

[Danesch] The armed conflicts between the mujahidin groups are constantly increasing. Have you tried to come to an agreement with the moderate groups?

[Najibullah] The armed hostilities between the armed groups have indeed assumed vast proportions. These

hostilities drove the regional and international backers of these groups to despair. We contacted many commanders in the country and many personalities at home and abroad. Two-thirds of the commanders made agreements with us and stopped the war against us. We will talk to the others.

[Danesch] However, the known commanders are still fighting against you. For example, only recently Ahmad Shah Mas'ud proclaimed a holy war against your government.

[Najibullah] The people's great support for our policy of national reconciliation and the increasing antiwar mood in the camp of our enemies caused the extremists who think that their interests will only be safeguarded if the war is continued to make use of all their opportunities against us.

[Danesch] Although you made concessions to the commanders and promised them autonomy, you were not able to win them over.

[Najibullah] These extremists are trying to intimidate the people by terror. They launch missiles at the residential districts of our cities.

[Danesch] How do you want to prevent these missile attacks? Although you extended the security zone around Kabul to 30 km, the attacks are continuing.

[Najibullah] The fact that they are launching their missiles at residential districts only shows how weak these armed groups are. These missiles hit innocent people. The missiles are produced in the United States and, as a so-called help, placed at the disposal of the extremists via Pakistan. Our army was able to frustrate the enemies' attacks at the front. It will undoubtedly soon be able to prevent these criminal acts of our enemies.

[Danesch] The mujahidin claim that they have their own people in your Army. Gulbuddin Hekmatyar also placed "his" man, former Defense Minister Tanai, in a top position. Is there not the danger that the mujahidin will coordinate these missile attacks with their own people within the Army?

[Najibullah] Since the coup of Hekmatyar and Tanai was frustrated, our Army has been more uniform than ever.

[Danesch] Today Afghanistan is an enormous arms depot. Who will take the first step to destroy these weapons?

[Najibullah] We have repeatedly proposed that these weapons be collected and sent back to their countries of origin. However, international cooperation is required for this.

[Danesch] More than 5 million Afghans fled from the war. How do you want to get these people back?

[Najibullah] We took the necessary measures and established a special ministry.

[Danesch] Your government is financially incapable of raising the enormous sums that are required for the return of the refugees. Who has promised you help so far?

[Najibullah] We need international help. However, we are sure that the UN secretary general and the UN coordinator of the Afghan relief program, Prince Agha Khan, will do everything to induce all countries to help us.

[Danesch] How are the current relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan?

[Najibullah] Relations have not changed. We hope for an improvement in relations with the assumption of power of Bhutto's elected government.

[Danesch] During the recent meeting between Pakistani Prime Minister Bhutto and Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, both sides welcomed elections in Afghanistan.

[Najibullah] The agreement on elections can actually be called the start of an important new period. However, oral agreements alone are not sufficient. Practical steps have to follow in order to advance the peace process.

[Danesch] Some Western countries, such as France, Italy, and Japan, want to reopen their diplomatic missions in Kabul. Have you ever tried to induce other Western countries to make this step?

[Najibullah] We do not see any obstacles on the road to improving the political, economic, and cultural relations with Western countries.

[Danesch] What are your relations with Austria? What role can neutral Austria play in the Afghanistan conflict?

[Najibullah] Like Afghanistan, Austria is a neutral country. Austria can play an important role in solving the Afghanistan problem. We hope that the government in Vienna will take steps in this direction.

High-Ranking Officers Reportedly Arrested, Sacked

BK1206101390 Lahore *THE NATION* in English
12 Jun 90 p 5

[Text] Peshawar—Kabul regime has arrested and sacked a number of high ranking army officers, reports Afghan News Agency (ANA) on Sunday [10 June].

The report further said that rumours cropped up some days back regarding a coup against the government of Dr. Najibullah. Army was alerted and security was tightened at all the key posts as Najib feared that a coup would be launched during the session of Loya Jerga. As a precautionary measure he had deployed army guards on all the government functionaries and a number of suspected army officers were arrested, which included, Noorul Haq Aloomi Commander of Qandahar Division, 'Abdul Haq, Chief of Judiciary Wing in the Defence Ministry, Arif Sakhra Munshi and Tariq Ofuq.

It is the third time that after an abortive coup, the Kabul regime face a major breakthrough in the army and each

time large number of officers were arrested. [sentence as published] The report said that the Afghan Army had become fed up with fighting against its own people and they want a change.

Ministry Spokesman Scores Hekmatyar Statement

LD1106194390 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 11 Jun 90

[Text] The Republic of Afghanistan Foreign Ministry spokesman remarked on the dangerous and irresponsible statement of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar about the continuation of the Salam Program, the aim of which is helping Afghan people inside the Republic of Afghanistan and outside it and its reconstruction:

In continuation of crimes against Afghans, Gulbuddin has recently started giving irresponsible, insulting, and rude statements against the Salam Program and its coordinator, His Excellency Sadruddin Agha Khan. He has said he would prevent UN humanitarian and economic aid from helping the people of Afghanistan. These rude statements, which are against all political norms, divulge the hostile character of Gulbuddin and his group. Recently Sebghatullah Mojaddedi, in an interview with the BBC, noted: Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and his group are responsible for the killings among Afghans inside and outside Afghanistan. He also considers Gulbuddin and his group a great obstacle to international humanitarian activities with the people of Afghanistan. The Republic of Afghanistan vehemently demands that the international community, the United States and the UN bring pressure to bear on Pakistan to prevent the interference and terrorist attacks launched by Gulbuddin and his group against the activities of the Salam Program inside and outside Afghanistan. The Republic of Afghanistan provides all possible facilities to help the UN delegations providing humanitarian and economic aid to the people of Afghanistan. We also request all organizations and commanders to take resolute action against Gulbuddin and his groups' terrorist acts, which are mounted with the direct cooperation of Pakistan's military intelligence inside and outside Afghanistan against the Salam Program and that they not be given the chance of interfering with humanitarian and economic aid to the people of Afghanistan.

The unseemly statements by Gulbuddin against the Salam Program and its coordinator His Excellency Sadruddin Agha Khan, who is an international personality and who makes cordial efforts to help the people of Afghanistan and our ruined country, show contempt for the international community, the UN, and world public opinion.

REUTER Interviews Defense Minister

LD1206083490 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0448 GMT 12 Jun 90

[Text] Kabul, June 11, BAKHTAR—General Muhammad Aslam Watanjar, minister of defence received in his office today correspondent of REUTER for a press interview.

A BAKHTAR military correspondent reported that Watanjar detailed the journalist on the politico-military situation here, high morale and combat readiness of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan and responded to his questions.

Rockets, Mines, Explosives Discovered 8 Jun

LD0806063490 *Kabul BAKHTAR in English*
0450 GMT 8 Jun 90

[Text] Kabul, June 7, BAKHTAR: The Parvan Garrison conducted mopping up operations in the Sinjiddara [as received] District, Parvan Province recently.

A BAKHTAR military correspondent reported that as a result of the operations 4 U.S. made [as received] ground to ground rockets, 10 missiles and v 9 [as received] kgs of explosives deployed for launching on the populated areas of Parvan were timely unearthed and seized.

Reports reaching BAKHTAR say that the Vardak police force unearthed 8 ground to ground rockets in the Kashmirian District of that province lately.

During the mopping up operations carried out by the organs of the state security in the Bagrami District, Kabul Province today 2 ground to ground SAKR-30, 12 kgs of explosives, 8 handgrenades and 11 anti-vehicle and anti-personnel mines were seized.

Sarandoy Officials Capture Explosives in Kabul

LD0606170290 *Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto*
1530 GMT 6 Jun 90

[Text] Officials of Kabul Province Sarandoy command's department for the campaign against felony crimes discovered today eight kilograms of trotyle type explosives in ward 12 of the city of Kabul thereby aborting a sinister plot of the extremists. The BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] military section reports that explosives have been deployed in crowded section of the city to bereave our faithful people. They were discovered and captured with the cooperation of the local people.

***Zahir Shah's 'Readiness' To Enter Scene Reported**

90AS0093A *London KEYHAN in Persian*
24 May 90 pp 1, 9

[Text] One day after a request made by the head of Kabul's communist government, Dr. Najibullah, from this country's former monarch, Mohammad Zahir Shah, to interfere in the Afghan situation and to help bring peace to this land, in a declaration to the people of Afghanistan, Mohammad Zahir Shah announced his readiness to enter his country's political scene.

In a report last Wednesday, REUTER quoted a Kabul Radio news report that Dr. Najibullah has sent a simultaneous message to Sebghatullah Mojadeddi, the head of

the provisional government set up by the Afghan Mujahidin, and also invited him to play a role to return peace and calm to Afghanistan.

In a declaration issued in Rome, Mohammad Zahir Shah, the former Afghan monarch, emphasized that his interest in interfering in the Afghan crisis is merely to prevent dangers stemming from the present crisis and to bring about complete independence and territorial integrity for Afghanistan and to create a political system based on Islamic principals to ensure the free participation of the Afghan people [in a political process] to determine their fate. In his declaration, he mentioned a "program" he has prepared in order to resolve the Afghan crisis.

While emphasizing the endeavors of the Mujahidin during the past 11 years, in his declaration, he formally denounced the claim of the heads of the mujahidin to the leadership [of the people] and proclaimed that political leadership of the country is dependent upon the vote of the Afghan people.

Although moderate Afghan mujahidin groups, which have more followers than other groups, are in favor of the return of the [former] Afghan Monarch to the political scene of that country, the eight Afghan groups based in Iran and under the influence of the Islamic Republic regime, which have little influence inside Afghanistan, have announced their displeasure with Mohammad Zahir Shah's activities.

In Tehran, the spokesman for Hezb-e Vahdat-e Eslami of Afghanistan alleged that Mohammad Zahir Shah's statements have been dictated by the superpowers and considered the U.S.-Soviet agreement to resolve the Afghan conflict as invalid.

The Islamic Republic Radio, in its news report of last Wednesday, announced that Hezb-e Vahdat-e Eslami has sought help from the regime of the Islamic Republic in order to establish an Islamic government in Afghanistan. However, it seems that the Islamic Republic government [of Iran] has no serious objection to the return of Mohammad Zahir Shah and has been compelled to accept this issue.

In an interview with the Egyptian daily AL-AHRAM, Dr. Najibullah emphasized that if he loses in the next Afghan elections he will remove himself from power. The suggestion for holding general elections across Afghanistan, to be monitored by the Islamic Conference Organization and the United Nations, was put forward by Dr. Najibullah on 4 Ordyshehst (24 April).

The New Afghan Prime Minister

Dr. Najibullah picked Fazl Haq Khaliqyar, the former governor of Harat, to be the prime minister of Afghanistan. Fazl Haq Khaliqyar was badly wounded in an attack by Afghan mujahidin on 6 April of this year (17 Farvardin), during a ceremony for the surrender of some mujahidin groups to the Kabul government. He is a

member of Hezb-e Democratic-e Khalq-e Afghanistan and trusted by Dr. Najibullah. He has been very active in efforts towards national reconciliation.

Soviet-American Agreement

Political circles in Pakistan have confirmed the recent news regarding the Soviet-American agreement to resolve the Afghan crisis. Details of this agreement have not yet been announced.

The Pakistani daily newspaper JANG reported last week that Mikhail Gorbachev dispatched a special envoy to Afghanistan to meet with Dr. Najibullah and informed him that he should resign from his present post prior to elections in Afghanistan, which will be monitored by the United Nations, in order to pave the way for the provisional government to hold elections without his presence [on the scene] and to govern the country in this transitional period.

The full text of Mohammad Zahir Shah's declaration has been printed in this issue.

Bangladesh

Constitution Amended as Opposition Walks Out

BK1306101590 Hong Kong AFP in English 0959 GMT 13 Jun 90

[Text] Dhaka, June 13 (AFP)—The Bangladesh Parliament passed a constitutional amendment Wednesday [13 June] renewing a guarantee of at least 30 women's seats in Parliament as the opposition walked out in protest. The 10th amendment to the Constitution, which also removes a language discrepancy on the time-frame for holding presidential elections, was passed shortly after midnight in the 300-member Parliament dominated by President Hussain Mohammad Ershad's ruling Jatiya Party [JP].

Parliamentary officials said 226 MPs [members of Parliament] voted in favour and one against the bill, which will reserve 30 seats for women for 10 years following the scheduled 1993 general elections.

In an effort to counter the disenfranchisement of women, Bangladesh's Constitution, ratified in 1972, had reserved 30 seats for women for the next 15 years, or until 1987. The 30 women lawmakers were chosen by the other, directly elected MPs.

One of the opposition MPs who walked out of the House during the voting criticised the amendment as "another ploy by the JP to strengthen its hold on power."

In previous parliaments, the party that had the most seats strengthened its position by filling all 30 women's seats. The present parliament, elected for a five year term in 1988, includes just three female parliamentarians, elected directly along with their 297 male colleagues.

During nearly five-hour debate, opposition leader A.S.M. Abdur Rab opposed the bill but suggested that

instead of 30 there should be 64 women MPs, with one selected in each of Bangladesh's 64 administrative districts. Prime Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed argued that for socio-economic reasons there was a need to keep 30 seats reserved for women in the legislature.

More than 30 lawmakers spoke during the debate on the bill, which also corrects a discrepancy between English and Bengali texts of the Constitution relating to the presidential elections. The confusion, which came to light after President Ershad announced last month that he would run for a second term, concerns whether voting should take place within a period of 180 days before the expiry of president's term. The Bengali text, which had said the vote should take place before the 180-day period, was amended to provide that presidential elections should take place within the 180-day period.

Mr. Ershad, whose first five-year term ends in October 1991, recently said presidential elections would be held some time in the six months after April 14. The National Election Commission has yet to announce a date for the polls.

India

Afghan Foreign Minister Wakil Continues Visit

Meets With Gujral

HK1206123090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0828 GMT 12 Jun 90

[Text] New Delhi, June 12 (AFP)—Visiting Afghan Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil joined his Indian counterpart Inder Kumar Gujral here Tuesday in talks centered on proposals to widen bilateral economic cooperation. The Indo-Afghan talks were taking place in the framework of a Joint Commission which has met eight times since it was formed by New Delhi and Kabul in 1969 to review ties and cooperation in several fields, Indian officials said.

Mr. Wakil, who arrived here Monday [11 June] at the head of a 10-member delegation, also held separate talks with Mr. Gujral amid speculation that the two leaders discussed the possibility of a visit by Afghan President Najibullah to India.

The officials said the ninth round of the joint commission hopes to agree on doubling two-way trade between India and Afghanistan which during 1988-1989 was to the tune of 30 million dollars. India exports buses, tyres, tea, and medical supplies to Afghanistan and imports fresh and dry fruits, pelts and medicinal herbs from the war-torn country.

The two sides were also likely to discuss India's role in training Afghan technical personnel in fields barring defence, the officials said, as well as the issue of Pakistan's role in both Afghanistan and the northern Indian state of Kashmir. New Delhi is Kabul's staunchest political ally in Asia and both countries accuse Pakistan of interference in their internal affairs.

Mr. Wakil is scheduled to end his five-day trip to India with a visit to the northern desert city of Jaipur Thursday [14 June] after talks with other Indian leaders. He will return to Kabul Friday [15 June].

Criticizes Pakistan

BK1206161090 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 12 Jun 90

[Text] Afghanistan has voiced its concern over Pakistan's role in destabilizing the situation in the region, including Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab. The visiting Afghan foreign minister, Mr. 'Abdul Wakil, said that Pakistan is openly financing and arming extremists for subversive actions in Kashmir Valley as it did on the Afghan soil. This is not only a cause of great concern to all but also creates a grave situation in the region, he said.

The matter came up during the discussions between Mr. Wakil and the external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, and in the deliberations of the Indo-Afghan joint commission in New Delhi today. Mr. 'Abdul Wakil appreciated the prime minister Mr. V.P. Singh's dealing with Pakistan, which is characterized by a resolute and firm action.

The Afghan delegation sought to extend and intensify trade, economic, and technical cooperation with India. A protocol is being finalized which will be signed tomorrow. It will cover cooperation in several areas, including public health, industry, agriculture, irrigation, tourism, trade, and other fields. India is expected to provide assistance to Kabul in the rehabilitation of handicapped persons in Afghanistan.

Gujral Welcomes 'Fresh Initiatives'

BK1306031390 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 13 Jun 90

[Text] India has welcomed the fresh initiatives by the president, Mr. Najib, to bring about national reconciliation in Afghanistan and hoped Kabul will assume its rightful place in the South Asian community. Speaking at a banquet in New Delhi last evening in honor of the visiting Afghan foreign minister, Mr. 'Abdul Wakil, the external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, described the initiatives as positive and constructive. Mr. Gujral said that Dr. Najib's proposals will facilitate a political settlement in Afghanistan. He said the Afghan people should be allowed to arrive at a political settlement by themselves taking into account the existing realities and legitimate interests of all concerned. Mr. Gujral reiterated India's stand that foreign intervention and interference should end. Mr. Gujral said that India will intensify its economic and commercial interaction with Afghanistan and impart a fresh dimension to technical cooperation.

At this time, when Afghanistan is poised for a major political and economic transformation, it needs the continued support of friendly countries, Mr. Gujral added. He further said India has endeavored to contribute toward the reconstruction and economic development of Afghanistan through an active program of

cooperation in economic and technical fields within the framework of the Indo-Afghan joint commission.

Further Reportage on Punjab Security Situation

Government To Post 'Elite' Guards

BK1306010490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1926 GMT
12 Jun 90

[Text] New Delhi, June 12 (AFP)—Indian authorities have decided to post elite National Security Guards in Punjab's border districts to curb Sikh militancy, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported Tuesday [12 June]. Twelve people died in separatist-linked violence in the northern state late Monday and Tuesday, included eight militants shot in fights with security troopers, the news agency said.

An unspecified number of National Security Guards specially trained to combat terrorism were to be deployed in Punjab's Amritsar, Gurdaspur and Ferozepur Districts, all militant strongholds and on the border with Pakistan, PTI said. The deployment would be in the first week of July, officials quoted by PTI said in Chandigarh, the capital of Punjab, where Sikh militants are fighting for an independent Sikh homeland called Khalistan, or land of the pure.

Charanjit Singh, a militant wanted by police for some 20 killings, was shot dead in a gunfight in Amritsar District Tuesday, police were quoted as saying.

Paramilitary border security forces shot dead two alleged border intruders from Pakistan in Punjab's Velotha area late Monday, the news agency added.

The other killings, including those of two civilians by militants, took place elsewhere in the state, where some 1,000 people have died in separatist violence so far this year.

India has accused Pakistan of helping the Sikh militants, a charge rejected by Islamabad.

6 Killed; Curfew Set in Srinagar

BK1306041690 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 13 Jun 90

[Text] In Srinagar, there will be no curfew relaxation in the old city areas for the second day today. These areas are under the police stations of Khaniyar, Renabari, Maharajganj, Safakadal, and Naohatta. Curfew in the rest of the city has been relaxed as usual for 13 hours from 0600 this morning.

Six persons, including four terrorists and two jawans [soldiers] of the Jammu and Kashmir armed police, were killed yesterday in the terrorist incidents. Twelve militants were arrested.

Meanwhile, it has been decided that the banks in the Kashmir valley will start functioning normally within the next one week.

Sikh Militants Attack CRPF

*BK1306054890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0531 GMT
13 Jun 90*

[Text] Amritsar, India, June 13 (AFP)—Sikh separatists armed with Soviet-made rockets launched one of their biggest attacks late Tuesday [12 June] on a paramilitary troop headquarters in this northern Indian state, police said Wednesday. Between 30 and 40 Sikhs fired rockets from shoulder-held launchers in Taran Tarn County's Shahbaajpur village in a bid to destroy the local headquarters of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), the police said.

"There were no casualties among the CRPF as the troopers were out in the villages for night patrol," a senior police officer said.

Police officials identified the complex as the Amritsar nerve centre of the 69th Battalion of the CRPF, which is involved in anti-militant operations in this district, the hotbed of Sikh separatism in Punjab.

The raiders ringed the complex and fired 22 armour-piercing rockets at the fortified building in an attack that lasted more than half an hour and caused partial damage to the complex, the officials said. The militants, hiding in bushes near the camp, also fired about 2,000 shots from automatic weapons at the building, but were chased away when CRPF guards opened fire from machineguns mounted in concrete pillboxes and bunkers, spraying the area with bullets, the officer added. At least 1,000 empty cartridges from the militants' Chinese-built AK-47 rifles were found at the attack site which was also littered with chunks of smashed concrete, broken glass and empty rocket casings, witnesses said.

The CRPF troops from the high-profile 69th Battalion have launched a hunt for the Sikh militants who attacked their headquarters, officials said.

Shahbaajpur village is 45 kilometres (27 miles) south of this frontier district town and the attack, the biggest so far, was launched around 11.30 p.m. local time (1800 GMT), the officials said.

It was not immediately known if CRPF gunners killed any of the militants, but the police said the attack appeared to have been in retaliation for the death of a top Sikh separatist, Bakseesh Singh Sona, on Sunday [10 June] in Ferozepur District. Mr. Sona was killed in a gunbattle with CRPF troops. He was wanted by the police in connection with hundreds of murder of civilians and security personnel and after his death local residents of Ferozepur had surrounded a police station to demand his bullet-ridden body.

Tuesday's attack also coincided with New Delhi's plans to deploy elite National Security Guards (NSG), also called "Black Cat" commandos, in the frontier posts of Punjab to contain Sikh separatism. NSG commandos in May 1988 launched an offensive on the Golden Temple

in Amritsar killing 36 hardcore Sikh militants during a 10-day siege on the holiest shrine in Sikhdom.

Meanwhile, suspected Sikh militants shot dead four civilians late Tuesday in Amritsar's border areas, police said, adding the bodies were found Wednesday. They also attacked a guardpost of a Special Police officer in Amritsar's Cheema village late Tuesday, but without causing any casualties, the police said.

More than 1,000 people have died so far this year in the bloody Sikh battle for an independent homeland in Punjab.

'Dreaded' Terrorist Killed

*BK1006091490 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 10 Jun 90*

[Text] In Punjab, five terrorists, including a dreaded one—Bakshish Singh alias Sona—were killed in separate incidents last night. According to the state police chief, Mr. K.P.S. Gill, Sona was killed in two-hour-long encounter with the police party which raided his hide-outs near village Fattawala in Dharamkot area of Ferozepore District. Involved in a number of terrorist crimes in the area, Sona carried a reward of 50,000 rupees on his head. Two AK-47 rifles and about 150 rounds of ammunition have been recovered from the killed terrorist.

In another encounter in Amritsar District, one of the four car-borne terrorists was killed near village Butta in Jandiala area. In another incident in Amritsar District, terrorists gunned down three members of a rival gang in village Kamalpur in Ajnala area late last night. In three other incidents in Amritsar District, terrorists gunned down three persons, including a policeman and a Home Guard volunteer. Elsewhere in the state, terrorists shot dead two liquor vend employees in village Jhandoke in Bhatinda District and a farmer in Srihargobindpur area of Gurdaspur District.

Two 'Terrorists' Among Nine Killed

*BK0906045690 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0435 GMT 9 Jun 90*

[Text] In Punjab, nine persons, including two terrorists, have been killed in separate incidents of violence last night. According to an official spokesman, terrorists fired at four vehicles near village Chandrapurna in Faridkot District, killing four and injuring five persons. In Ropar District, terrorists struck at a liquor vendor in Kalwamora in Nurpur Bedi and killed two vending employees and a customer.

In an encounter with the security forces in Kapurthala District, two hard-core terrorists were killed near village Badla.

CPI-M Criticizes Gorbachev Reform Efforts*BK1206164590 Hong Kong AFP in English 1640 GMT
12 Jun 90*

[Text] New Delhi, June 12 (AFP)—India's largest communist party on Tuesday [12 June] severely criticised Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's reformist efforts as a deviation from "fundamental Marxist-Leninist propositions." The Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M) said Eastern European developments occurring in the wake of Mr. Gorbachev's policies of perestroika (restructuring) and glasnost (openness) were "a setback" for world socialism. The CPI-M, independent of both Moscow and Beijing in its policies, agreed there was need for economic and political reforms in the Soviet Union, but said they need not be at the negation of "the achievements of the socialist past."

A statement from the CPI-M, based on discussions at a recent meeting of the party's policy-making Central Committee, said here that the Soviet party "does not recognise the existence of world imperialism today," adding it was pursuing "de-ideologisation of state-to-state relations." This stand was tantamount to "negating the anti-imperialist standpoint," the CPI-M said.

Most of the party's senior leaders are aged 60 years or more.

The Central Committee discussed the East European developments after a high-level CPI-M delegation, led by General Secretary Elamkulath Manakkal Sankaran Namboodiripad, 81, visited Moscow for talks in February. After describing the East European events as a "severe setback to the forces of world socialism," the party said they were "a result of distortions and deviations from the principles of building socialism."

"The world is entering into a period of a fiercer struggle between the forces of imperialism and socialism in various spheres," the CPI-M said.

The party heads Marxist alliances ruling the states of West Bengal and Kerala.

Commentary Views Pakistani Ethnic Clashes*BK1206120590 Delhi General Overseas Service
in English 1010 GMT 12 Jun 90*

[Commentary on "Happenings in Sindh in Pakistan" by A.K. Kidwai of the NATIONAL HERALD]

[Text] What began as a sporadic and stray outburst of violence between the Muhajirs and the local populace in the Sindh Province of Pakistan has assumed the dimensions of a full-fledged ethnic strife with the passage of time. Some 2 million of migrants from India were christened as Muhajirs in the glow of the political, religious fervor in Pakistan—the supposed homeland of Muslims. It is against these migrants that odds have now come to be heavily loaded against thanks to the divide

between the Muhajirs and the local Sindhis on the one hand and between the Muhajirs and Punjabis and Pathans on the other.

The cause of the strife, in both the cases, is rooted in the competitive trade interests and equally so in the inter-gang rivalries between the mafia gangs peddling in drug and illicit traffic. That as many as 400 people lost their lives in the recent weeks in the escalated ethnic violence in Sindh is an index of the seriousness of the situation prevailing in the home province of the Pakistan prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto. This is an unequal struggle in terms of the demographic chart—2 million Muhajirs against 12 million Sindhis, but this is only notionally so. What is going on in the area is a war of reprisals between equally equipped gangs—whether it involves Muhajirs and Sindhis or Muhajirs and Punjabis and Pathans. The presence of the Afghan guerrillas or the so-called mujahidin has also added fuel to fire and deepened the social divide in the trouble-torn areas of Sindh.

Undeniably, the situation is fraught with grave implications for the powers that be in Pakistan. It is at once symptomatic of a mini-civil war as also of secessionist movement. After all, who are the Muhajirs? They are the refugees who came to Pakistan in search of security and jobs in 1947. At the time, it was these migrants who provided political leadership, as indeed the brains to put Pakistan on the rails of governance. The modus operandi of the founding fathers of the partition has not worked and the history of Pakistan over the four decades is one of dashed hopes and lost dreams. What has sustained a facade of unity is the presence of the Army and paramilitary forces, and even if the civil authority has maintained its hold, it is only superficially so.

In fact, the fate of democracy, as that of Ms. Bhutto, hangs by a slender thread in Pakistan today. After all, Sindh has lived from coup to coup during the 11 years of General Zia's dictatorship. Even earlier, Sindh joined the comity of provinces that comprised Pakistan as an unwilling partner. This is past history, but not so the events that followed the overthrow and the subsequent execution of Mr. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto at the hands of the fundamentalist Zia regime.

It is now Ms. Bhutto's turn to accuse India for the ailments that are self-created and the wounds that are self-inflicted. This comes strange from the head of the government of a country which stands condemned at the bar of the world opinion for its open complicity and instigation of the terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab. The challenge that Ms. Bhutto faces internally has sent her looking for a scapegoat elsewhere. This is not without its irony. Whatever by nature of a political compulsion, this comes odd from a prime minister to raise the war cry of freedom while on a visit to the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir which is by all international norms Indian territory. India has substantiated its charge of Pakistan's complicity and abetment of the terrorist activity both in Kashmir and Punjab beyond doubt.

The Pakistani army chief, General Aslam Beg, is no longer the picture of sweet reasonableness that he was at the time of Ms. Bhutto's ascendancy to power. General Beg's statements have an ominous ring. They do not really rule out the possibility of an Army takeover in some foreseeable future in Pakistan.

Ms. Bhutto's growing aggressiveness against India deserves to be seen and understood in the context of the fast changing political equations in her own country. What Ms. Bhutto is up against is the threat of a coup that can turn real at the slightest pretext. Those who sowed this wind should be prepared to reap the whirlwind. These happenings are grim reminder that the way to political unity does not lie through spiritual affinity. What the rulers of Pakistan—military and civil—are face to face at the present juncture is the nemesis of history that flows from their own wrongdoings in the sphere of diplomacy and in the dealings with its peace-loving neighbor, which India indeed is.

Second Corvette Class Warship Commissioned

BK0706131690 *Delhi Domestic Service in English*
1230 GMT 7 Jun 90

[Text] The country's second missile Corvette class warship named INS [Indian Naval Ship] Kothar was formally commissioned into the Indian navy by the Maharashtra governor, Mr. C. Subramaniam, in Bombay today. Speaking on the occasion, he called for concentrating on the indigenous development of major systems. He, however, said self-reliance does not mean isolation from others or from foreign ideas.

Officer commanding-in-chief, Western Navy Command said that the commissioning of INS Kothar is another milestone in the modernization of the Indian navy.

Kashmir Situation 'Peaceful'; 2 Subversives Killed

BK1206151290 *Delhi Domestic Service in English*
1430 GMT 12 Jun 90

[Text] The situation in Srinagar remained peaceful today except for three incidents in the old city area where subversives hurled hand grenades on the security forces. No one was injured.

Two subversives were killed and nine captured by the security forces after encounters at two different places in the five-km border belt in (Gurez) sector in Kashmir Valley.

Antigovernment Activities Prompt Mizoram Curfew

BK1206161790 *Delhi Domestic Service in English*
1530 GMT 12 Jun 90

[Text] In Mizoram, night curfew has been clamped with immediate effect in 19 villages situated in the north-eastern areas of Aijal District where the extremists of Hamar People's Convention [HPC] have launched their antigovernment activities. An order to this effect was issued by the district magistrate of Aijal today to check

and detect movements and activities of extremist elements of the HPC. The night curfew from 1800 to 0400 every day will continue for a period of two months.

Eight Killed, 28 Injured in Assam Bus Blast

BK1006124290 *Delhi Domestic Service in English*
1230 GMT 10 Jun 90

[Text] In Assam, eight persons were killed on the spot and 28 others were injured when a powerful bomb exploded inside a bus near Barpeta town today. According to official sources in the state capital, the bus was coming from Barpeta town to Guwahati when the bomb exploded. Seriously injured passengers have been shifted to Guwahati Medical College Hospital. Senior police officials have rushed to the spot. Police suspect that the bomb was planted by the Bodo [tribal] extremists. Further details are awaited.

Iran

Navy To Bar Iraqi Frigates From Gulf

LD1206201290 *Tehran IRNA in English* 1808 GMT
12 Jun 90

[Text] Tehran, June 12, IRNA—A submarine fleet complete with all necessary equipment purchased from a certain country, will soon be stationed at the Chabahar Naval Base on the Gulf of Oman, Navy Commander Rear Admiral Ali Shamkhani has disclosed. In an interview printed by the Persian daily ETTELA'AT today, the commander said Iran's submarine personnel are now receiving trainings "in that country", which he did not name.

"Once the fleet joins the Islamic Republic's naval force, the Navy will extend its mission deep into international waters," said Shamkhani.

The missile systems of some naval units have undergone changes, he said, while advanced modern missiles have been purchased from both eastern and western countries which will be fitted on the naval units.

"Coast-to-sea missile capabilities will also get a boost," added the Navy chief.

He also disclosed that with new planes about to join the Navy, the country's air power will significantly rise.

Shamkhani referred to the success of an Iranian-made submarine during the 'Sahand' maneuvers, and said it was manufactured jointly by the national defence industries and the Navy. He stressed that the submarines "will add to our superiority over the whole Persian Gulf and complete control of the Hormuz Strait."

On the entry of Italian-made frigates into the waterway once they are delivered to the Iraqi regime, Shamkhani made it clear that Iran will prevent the entry of the said frigates under the current 'no war no peace' atmosphere. "since their entry violates the ceasefire and international conventions."

"International laws at sea do not allow Iraq to do this, and if Iraq wants to sail the frigates through the Hormuz Strait, we naturally have (our own) rights, which we will exercise in the no war no peace situation," he said.

Regarding the Iraqi regime's exchange of letters with the Islamic Republic, Shamkhani said "the letters only contain generalities." However he added that the Islamic Republic supports any initiative which tends to establish peace as per the U.N. Resolution 598.

Air Force To Have 'Most Sophisticated' Weapons

LD1206160590 Tehran IRNA in English 1451 GMT 12 Jun 90

[Text] Shiraz, June 12, IRNA—The Islamic Republic is planning to equip its Air Force with the world's most sophisticated military weapons, the Air Force commander said here Tuesday [12 June]. Brigadier General Mansur Sattari made the remarks in a speech to the graduates of the 5th flying training course for F-5 jet fighters at an air base here.

"The dismissal of foreign experts from Iran was a divine blessing for us...we are now witnessing the flourishing of our experts' creativity and their efforts to get rid of global arrogance," Sattari said.

Meanwhile, a war-damaged reconnaissance fighter repaired by the Air Force experts, was successfully test-flown in the presence of Sattari. It took experts more than 20,000 hours to repair and put into operation the warplane which was the 4th of its kind to be mended inside the country. This saved dlrs eight million in hard currency for the country.

Majles Denies Inviting UK Delegations To Visit

LD1206170290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 12 Jun 90

[Text] The Islamic Consultative Council has denied inviting representatives from the British Canterbury Church [as heard] to visit Iran. An informed source in the public relations department of the Islamic Consultative Assembly today contacted IRNA [ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY]. He said: Not only has there not been any invitation made to the representatives of that church and representatives of the British Parliament; the Islamic Consultative Assembly has so far had no direct or indirect contact with them. He added: The information of the Islamic Consultative Assembly regarding the wish of the representatives of that church to visit Iran is limited to what has been published by the mass media. The Islamic Consultative Assembly has no further information regarding this matter.

It should be noted the British Canterbury Church, which started an extensive effort some time ago for freeing Terry Waite, the church's envoy in Lebanon, recently claimed it had received an invitation from the Iranian Majles for a delegation chosen by that church to visit Tehran.

Majles Views, Approves Forces Merger Bill

LD1206174190 Tehran IRNA in English 1624 GMT 12 Jun 90

[Text] Tehran, June 12, IRNA—The Majles Tuesday [12 June] debated and approved two articles of a bill to merge the gendarmerie, police and the Islamic Revolution Committees in a single force 'the Pasdars (guards) of the Islamic Republic'.

The session, presided over by Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi, approved the said articles after some amendments.

According to Article 1 of the bill, the Interior Ministry has been given a one-year time limit to merge the present disciplinary forces.

Article 2 defines the 'Guards of the Islamic Republic' as an armed organisation affiliated to the Interior Ministry, whose head is appointed by the commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces.

Other articles of the bill will be reviewed in Wednesday's [13 June] session.

Central Bank Outlines Foreign Exchange Rules

LD1206180390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 12 Jun 90

[Text] In line with the implementation of the scheme on controlling the foreign currency free market, through setting up money exchange centers and according to ratification by the Council of Money and Credit, the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran prohibited the sale and purchase of foreign currency coins in premises other than those authorized and declared it as an act liable to prosecution.

According to a Central News Unit report, the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic or Iran also announced that so far, 115 money-changing licences have been issued by that bank, 30 of which have begun their activities with the approval of offices for premises in Tehran, as well as the provincial towns of Mashhad, Babol, Bushehr, Shiraz, Ahvaz, Esfahan, Kish Island, Sari, and Orumiye.

According to the same report, money-changers are now duty bound to announce the daily rate of sale of foreign exchange and silver and gold coins. They should also display their business licences in their place of work, while providing their clients with invoices for every transaction carried out. The Central Bank also announced that for the purpose of having full confidence in the activities of money-changers, they have been asked to provide valid reference and appropriate deposits [as heard]. It further warned all unauthorized foreign currency dealers that should they continue their illegal activities, they will be prosecuted and punished.

Karrubi Reelected Majles Speaker 12 Jun

LD1206102790 Tehran IRNA in English 0948 GMT
12 Jun 90

[Text] Tehran, June 12, IRNA—Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi was reinstated in his post for another one-year term here Tuesday [12 June]. Of the two candidates for the chairmanship of the Majles, Karrubi received 155 votes out of 228 while Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri got only 73.

Meanwhile, Hoseyn Hashemian and Asadollah Bayat were chosen first and second vice-speakers.

Majles Official Interviewed on Resolution 598

LD1006112790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0740 GMT 10 Jun 90

[From "The Holy Defense" program; interview granted by Rafa'i-Khorasani, chairman of the Majles Foreign Affairs Committee, to unidentified reporter]

[Text] [Reporter] Dr. Rafa'i-Khorasani, recently the Soviet Government made some proposals regarding the implementation of UN Resolution 598. What do you think were the reasons for those proposals, and how are those proposals assessed by our country? Can they have any effect on the peace process?

[Rafa'i-Khorasani] Any of the Security Council permanent members who calls for the implementation of the resolution shows a kind of support for the resolution. The Soviet Union is one of those members. It is one of the signatories of the resolution, is one of the permanent members that plays a role in the implementation of the resolution, and its political support can pave the way toward the implementation of the resolution, and be counted as a kind of political pressure on Iraq. My understanding is that the Soviets are presumably not so pleased with Iraq's attitude. Another point the people should pay attention to is that if the resolution is implemented, it is not only good for us and good for peace in the region, but good for Iraq. The Security Council's respect also depends on this resolution. Members of the Security Council have to support their signatures and respect the resolution, even if it is to protect the international community's prestige. Therefore, when we see one of the members, like the Soviet Union, talk in support of the implementation of the resolution, that can have many reasons. That does not necessarily mean support for Iran, nor does it necessarily show displeasure for Iraq. The implementation of the resolution by itself is, in the eyes of world public opinion, a kind of prestige for the international community and its permanent members, and they should call for its implementation which, as a rule, they do.

[Reporter] Another question which may be asked regarding this matter: Considering the fact that, as you said in the previous answer, the motive behind wanting

the resolution implemented is partly because the Security Council permanent members have staked their reputation on it, and also they are not unwilling to see the matter concluded. How do you assess the performance of the international community, particularly the Security Council regarding implementation of the resolution?

[Rafa'i-Khorasani] I think that the Security Council is, on the whole, in favor of the implementation of the resolution. However, usually its members try to use the levers they have in the international community to safeguard their interests and resolve their differences. Our diplomatic relations with Western countries and their approach toward us in these relations definitely have a positive effect on their actions concerning the resolution. Our relations with most Security Council member countries are relatively respectful and cordial. All except one regard their relations with the Islamic Republic with respect, and are happy about it.

Concerning the United States, it is we who do not have, and do not want to have, relations with it. However, the United States is showing a great deal of interest in reestablishing ties with Iran. With the exception of the United States we have relatively good relations with the four other members. It knows that if it maintains its respect for their signatures, it would be effective in the expansion of its ties with us.

In that respect, I think that the behaviour of the security council has improved, particularly considering our ties with some of its members. If you were to compare the present situation in the Security Council with that of this time last year, you would see that the Security Council was not so firmly behind the secretary general's plan, and did not support the deadline, which has been proposed, so decisively. They were somewhat silent about many of the issues.

Now, perhaps partly because the true nature of the Iraqi regime has been exposed, and partly because of the balance, as it were, which has evolved in our relations with European countries, the Security Council members have adopted a more serious and respectful approach to the resolution.

I think that what Saddam Husayn said about the use of chemical weapons and the blatant way in which he has violated international laws has upset the international community, and the world realises that we were, and are, serious in our respect for humanitarian values and worthiness; that their trust in Saddam Husayn was unfounded and unwise.

In my opinion, they now intend to rectify that to some extent. The big powers want peace and balance in the Middle East. They do not want an arrogant and unwise power among Arab countries to create tension in the region. Therefore, using the tools at their disposal in the international community, they are trying to preserve stability and balance in the region. It is not wholly because of their support for us; it is also to safeguard their own interests.

However, a combination of relations and factors has resulted in the fact that the implementation of the resolution, at this particular juncture, would conform to other international political factors and parameters, and thus the situation has changed in our favor.

Velayati, Indonesian Minister Discuss Ties

*LD1206205#90 Tehran IRNA in English 1620 GMT
12 Jun 90*

[Text] Tehran, June 12, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati underlined the grounds for Tehran-Jakarta cooperation in a meeting with Indonesian Trade Minister Arifin Siregar here today. Hoping that relations between the two Muslim countries would further expand Velayati said Iran's foreign policy after the victory of the Islamic revolution has been to expand ties with the Muslim countries. He also stressed exchange of experts between the two countries in order to explore new grounds for mutual cooperation.

Siregar arrived here last Sunday for a four-day visit at the invitation of his Iranian counterpart 'Abdul Hoseyn Vahaji.

Editorial Cites 'Hypocritical' U.S. Government

*TA1106140590 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian
22 May 90 pp 1, 2*

[Editorial: "Israel, America's Slaughterhouse"]

[Text] Today the U.S. Government is the most hypocritical government ruling part of the world. Even if there is no solid evidence for this, the statement is proven when we see the Americans, despite all their bragging about democracy and lamenting for human rights, supporting the most fascist and murderous regime in the world. These days Israel's usurping and brutal regime is engaged in slaughter more shamelessly than ever. The massacre of Muslim Palestinian laborers, followed by the martyring and wounding of protesting demonstrators, is the Zionists' response to the so-called peace process in the Middle East! The Americans are slaughtering with the hands of the Israelis. At present Israel is America's slaughterhouse in the Middle East.

The U.S. Government is seeking, confidently and propitiously, to join the hands of the Arabs with those of the Zionists, who from the outset until today have not wanted nor been able to maintain their tyrannical power except through murder and terror.

At one time Israel was, on the face of it, surrounded by Islamic states. Gradually they changed the Islamic issue into an Arab issue and an international affair into a regional one. The besiegers, who at one time by tightening the oil tap had been able to cause the United States and Europe to shudder, broke their own siege one after the other and opened the way for the intervention and influence of U.S., British, and French military reinforcements into the region. Egypt capitulated at Camp David. Jordan built the foundations of its government on a

structure that could fall apart from a kick by the Americans. Lebanon became occupied with itself and its disintegration. Saudi Arabia became totally American. Meanwhile, of the few really or allegedly progressive and revolutionary countries that remained, each adopted a different course and direction. Iraq with all its claims of radicalism and revolutionary fervor resigned itself to a situation worse than the others.

The Iraqi regime concentrated all its military, political, and material resources and headed to confront a great and new power that arose in Islamic Iran. Moshe Dayan was the first sharp-witted Israeli to compare the emergence of this power to that of a great earthquake in the Middle East. Unfortunately, the Iraqi regime, instead of advocating patience and cooperation, withstanding external and internal temptations, effecting real rapprochement with Islamic Iran whether directly or through acceptable mediators, and—by utilizing the moral and material power of Iranian and Iraqi Muslims—kindling a fire whose heat would scare Tel Aviv's palace dwellers, naively embarked on occupying Tehran and burying the Islamic revolution. Like a coward, it undermined the powerful Islamic resistance front facing the Zionist front.

The well-known Palestinian strugglers, too, for various reasons gradually restrained themselves and instead of pursuing and watching the enemy through the barrel of a gun, became contented with promises of parliaments, governments, and statesmen and preferred the camera lens to the gun barrel. The continuous and dazzling glare that emanated and is emanating from cameras has replaced the lightning of swords. As a result....

Yes, the result is that the Muslim and oppressed people of Palestine remained alone and lonely in the true sense of the word. Perhaps the guilt of Arab governments, in this respect, is truly greater than that of well-known and famous Palestinian strugglers. The reason is that these governments, some of which were even more Catholic than the pope, not only did not support the Palestinians seriously but confiscated their weapons and facilities and opened fire on them. The Muslims of Arab countries, especially Palestine, regarded the emergence of Iran's Islamic Revolution as the emergence of their own victory and triumph. This was indeed the fact. Imam Khomeyni was a great, upright, and venerable figure who, even before many Arab muftis and clergymen, came out in support of the Palestinians. The Palestinians enjoyed moral and material benefits from the imam's statements and decrees. Various radio and television stations in Arab countries cited these decrees. Muslim Iranian and non-Iranian strugglers, with the imam's permission or under the inspiration of that great man's speeches, instructions, and warnings headed for Lebanon and other Arab countries and devoted themselves to Palestine. But....

But with deep regret the Arab leaders on one hand, and the Palestinian leaders on the other, distanced themselves from Iran and the imam following the victory of Iran's Islamic Revolution, the emphasis of the anti-American feature of this revolution, and the serious

confrontation of the Islamic Revolution with the infidels, headed by the arch-Satan. Despite the fact that they could take advantage of this center of power, light, and radiance and coordinate and consolidate a united front of struggle against Zionism under the leadership and guidance of Imam Khomeyni, they shunned this religious duty for the following reasons:

A—Iran and America were confronting each other. Arab governments and figures were at a loss to choose an option. They were incapable of fighting the United States. They were even alarmed at the possibility that the Americans might become offended and displeased if they struck a friendship with the Americans' enemy, namely Iran! Therefore, they were afraid that, God forbid, they might lose their crowns and thrones by a coup or even by a signal or an order!

B—The serious struggle against Zionism was liable to drive the Muslim Arabs and non-Arabs into fervor, rebellion, and endeavors. Then this great popular process might have turned into an immense wave on which the revolution's ship would sail with Imam Khomeyni as its captain. The outcome of such a situation would have undermined the foundations and bases of political power in Arab countries. In this case, there was fear that without any order from Imam Khomeyni, the wave of the anti-Zionist rebellion would in a natural manner eventually engulf the Arab leaders' crowns and thrones! Even for the sake of preserving some interests, had the imam called on the Arabs to protect their governments, these governments were not and are still not certain that they would be safe were a revolutionary movement to grow and develop!

C—While Imam Khomeyni did not have the slightest value for government from the worldly aspect, he was the most qualified leader in the Islamic world to lead and direct the anti-Zionist movement. But each of the heads and leaders of Arab countries had his own claim for leadership. Their worldly and human pretensions did not permit them to accept the moral leadership of a great man like Imam Khomeyni. They in fact considered his presence as synonymous with their own degradation!

Therefore, it was that treacherous and wicked government which today supports Israel with utmost power in the Security Council and other forums that prevented the leaders of Islamic countries from forging real unity with Islamic Iran and even among themselves. It is not clear for the love of which democracy and which human rights in Israel is the U.S. Government supporting a brutal regime ruling over this country. It is not a country but the usurped and occupied home of the Palestinians!

Despite all this, is there no other opportunity? Despite differences in positions are the Arab and Islamic countries incapable of shaking their hands in friendship around certain axes? Can the mobilization and fervor of nations, which is the main and basic road, not be

strengthened by opening other lanes and not deviating from the main road, one of which is contact and unity between governments?

Editorial on U.S. Paper's 'Reactive Gesture'

NC0206165790 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI
in Persian 6 May 90 pp 1, 10

[Editorial: "The United States and Its Totally Reactive Conduct"]

[Excerpts] In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful.

Recently the WASHINGTON POST newspaper claimed that Iran had also used chemical weapons in the Halabjah holocaust and in particular that it had used cyanide bullets.

This was first stated by the Iraqi regime's ambassador in Washington last week and now the U.S. mass media seem to have been instructed to continue along this path. [passage omitted]

The question arises: Why has the United States made this fresh discovery now, after two years have passed? Why has it just found out this new point about the Halabjah catastrophe? The reason should be sought in two basic points:

First, the antihuman nature of the Baghdad regime has led this regime to endeavor to project a most ruthless image. For this purpose, the most savage impression of the Baghdad regime has been imprinted on the international community. This savage image has been confirmed despite all the nefarious propagandistic designs in favor of the criminal of Baghdad, and the true nature of Saddam has been exposed to the contemporary world.

The latest proof was Saddam's personal admission of the possession of binary chemical weapons and their use against Iranian forces. [passage omitted]

Despite Iraq's admission of the use of binary chemical weapons against Iran, which was not something to be refuted, the Baghdad regime and its U.S. supporters are attempting to show that Baghdad is not the only criminal with a file on its use of chemical weapons and that the Islamic Republic of Iran is also supposedly involved.

How this sudden volte-face took place is something that can only be comprehended in light of the political circumstances that have arisen in the past few days. Following the publication of the article on "Direct Talks" the impression was conveyed that there are some individuals high up in the Iranian hierarchy who are in favor of talks with the United States, even though the various strata of society, publications, and Majles deputies have entered the foray with serious and vehement opposition to this deviant policy. However, there is evidence that in the United States the opinion prevails that the system's policy is

exactly what is conveyed by that venomous article. This is the reason why Washington saw that everything was according to its own wishes.

The sagacious, categorical approach to this issue by the auspicious leader of the Islamic Revolution poured holy water on the tainted hands of those who were thinking wrongly and those who were rejoicing over such issues. This naturally aroused the indignation of the United States.

The WASHINGTON POST article bears all the signs of an angry, reactive gesture against the Islamic Republic of Iran. In simple words, it shows exactly where the United States is burning. Humiliation from such propaganda tactics needs no further elaboration or reasoning, even though there are numerous very logical and strong reasons, some of which have been propounded earlier.

In view of the hard blow which the leader of the revolution and the Hezbollahi nation have dealt to the cheek of the United States, such reactions are not unexpected. It is in fact anticipated that they will continue to surface over the next few days in various forms. [passage omitted]

Ahmad Khomeyni Expresses Thanks for Ceremonies

*LD1006081190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 9 Jun 90*

[Excerpt] Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni in a statement today expressed his thanks and appreciation for the solid and extensive participation of various strata of the people in the memorable ceremonies marking the first anniversary of the passing of the illustrious leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Imam Khomeyni, may he be admitted to God's paradise.

The statement said: The impressive and tumultuous participation of the Islamic ummah in the ceremonies marking the first anniversary of the passing of the great champion of pure Mohammadan Islam has once again demonstrated the steadfastness of the ummah on the straight path of that unique figure of the age until the complete implementation of his divine goals and aspirations.

The participation of the vast and boundless masses of the mourning people in those ceremonies was a tale of love and faithfulness; faithfulness towards an illustrious figure whose call and uprising was for the sake of God and whose life and death were in the path of God; who thought of nothing except God and who had no aspiration but the establishment of the dominion of God's religion; an imam who, following in the footsteps of the exalted Prophet of Islam—God's salutations and benedictions be upon him and his scion—obeyed the command "Remain steadfast as you have been commanded" both during the difficult period of loneliness and exile, as well as at the height of his strength and power. He did not speak with his people at any time or on any occasion except in complete sincerity. In the gathering of the believers he was an ocean of love and affection, while toward the arrogant, the oppressors, and bullies he was a

volcano of warath and severity. He gave the glad tidings of the toppling of the bipolar arrogant system ruling over the world through the uprising of the nations. For support he relied on God and the hearts of the faithful lovers of God, and those whom he addressed were the deprived, the barefoot, and the oppressed people. He preferred a single hair of committed slum-dwellers to all the indifferent palace-dwellers, and he called for hand-to-hand combat between wealth and poverty.

The blessed tree which the imam planted in our Islamic homeland with his heart's blood will daily become more fruitful and more abundant, and the system of the Islamic Republic, through God's grace and the endeavors of Khomeyni's friends, will become the model for all the enslaved Muslim nations, despite all the difficulties.

The roaring waves which arose during these days in memory of Khomeyni—may he be admitted to God's paradise—proved the point that the principles of "neither Eastern, nor Western", independence-seeking, struggle for the liberation of nations, return to one's native and Islamic identity, the unity of the Islamic ummah in the face of the arrogant powers, the formation of the resistance cells by the Hezbollah throughout the world in order to confront the conspiracies of the enemies of Islam, and the call "Death to America" are still the slogans of our aware and enlightened people and all the followers of Khomeyni throughout the world; and that, as in the past, Islamic Iran will remain a base for supporting the deprived and oppressed of the world and will continue to support the Muslim revolutionaries of the world.

The statement also said: I wish to express my thanks to the esteemed leader, His Eminence Ayatollah Khomeyni, who by issuing his detailed and enlightening message and his presence at the ceremonies and in his speeches openly enunciated the continuation of the path of the imam in every detail of the future programs of the system and the revolution; a dear leader who has not ceased his efforts even for a moment for the implementation of the Islamic aspirations of our imam; an illustrious figure who showed to the world that Khomeyni's age will never end and that one should sacrifice one's life for the achievements of the goals of the imam; a leader who is standing firm like a mountain against arrogance, especially America. [passage omitted]

Karrubi Thanks People for Khomeyni Ceremonies

*LD1006114690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 10 Jun 90*

[Text] In today's open Majles session, the outlines of the bill for merging the gendarmierie, the [Islamic Revolution] Committee, and the police to form the Islamic Republic of Iran's security force were approved. According to our correspondent, during the session, Mr. Karrubi, who was presiding, delivered a speech in which he expressed gratitude for the million-strong presence of compatriots in the ceremonies marking the first anniversary of the heart-rending demise of His Eminence Imam

Khomeyni—may God be satisfied with his deeds—and described the extensive presence of Iranian Muslims and Muslims from other countries in the ceremonies as a demonstration of the influence of his eminence the imam's spirituality in the world of Islam.

The Majles speaker praised the presence of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the honorable leader of the Islamic revolution, in the ceremonies and spoke of his message as a harbinger of glad tidings and hope for all revolutionary forces and all those loyal to the Islamic Republic of Iran's system. Also thanking Hojjat ol-Eslam Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, Mr. Karrubi expressed the hope that the Muslim people of Iran, with greater unity and solidarity, will continue the path of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may his dust be sanctified.

Mr. Karrubi concluded by also thanking Majles deputies for taking part in the ceremonies marking the anniversary of the demise of the great leader of the Islamic revolution in their constituencies.

Visiting Tajik Muslims Comment on Ties

LD0606090290 Tehran IRNA in English 0710 GMT
6 Jun 90

[Text] Qom, June 6, IRNA—The Soviet Muslims have placed their hope in the Islamic revolution and republic and share sorrows and happiness of the Iranian nation, a visiting Soviet Muslim leader told IRNA here Tuesday [5 June]. Several Soviet Muslim leaders here for the ceremonies marking the first anniversary of the demise of Imam Khomeyni, arrived here Tuesday on a tour of the holy city.

Describing the impact of the Islamic revolution on the Tajik Soviet Republic as "highly positive and valuable", Mufti Turdjan of the Tajik Soviet Republic said that his fellow Muslim countrymen enjoyed common Islamic and national bonds with the Iranian people and that the establishment of the Islamic system in Iran provided the best motive for the Soviet Muslims to regain their Islamic identity. He called for an all-out cooperation among Iranian and Soviet Muslims and stressed "a very suitable ground exists for bilateral ideological cooperation."

The Tajik mufti also considered as a mere lie allegations that the Iranian people are disillusioned with the Islamic system noting that they demonstrated their devotion to their revolutionary aspirations by massive participation in the imam's commemoration ceremonies.

Another Soviet Mufti Abdul Ghaffar from Tashkent also speaking to IRNA said, "The Soviet Muslims have always been on the side of the Islamic revolution and have followed Imam Khomeyni's line." He reiterated that despite the enemy's reckless efforts, the Soviet Muslims have remained faithful to the Islamic revolution. He added that he was happy to visit the Islamic Iran for the first time and overjoyed to see that all Islamic principles, particularly Islamic way of dressing for women, are observed in Iran.

Another Muslim leader of the Turkmen Republic asked Iran to provide Soviet Muslims with Islamic books and dispatch theologians to Muslim-populated regions in the Soviet Union. He said that presently, Soviet Muslims are eager to learn more about Islam adding "The Islamic Republic should help us in this aspect."

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Receives Syrian Ambassador

LD0306142190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 3 Jun 90

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani received Mr. Ahmad al-Hasan, the new Syrian ambassador, this morning. According to a Central News Unit report, during the meeting the new Syrian ambassador presented his credentials to the president and conveyed from Syrian President al-Asad warm greetings and wishes for progress, greatness, and glory for the Muslim and revolutionary nation of Iran.

Referring to the fact that Iran and Syria consider the Palestinian issue the common axis of their struggles, he said: The important events which we are witnessing in the world, most significantly the ever increasing migration of world Jews toward holy places in Palestine, call for the strengthening of ties between the two countries and other Islamic countries to combat this threat, to take active steps in support of Islamic values and honorable Jerusalem, and protect the Muslim Palestinian nation.

Then, in return, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani sent his warm greetings to Mr. Al-Asad. Saying that the migration of Jews to Israel is a serious issue and the United States' recent veto showed that her peace-seeking remarks are not earnest, he added: The regional countries are more concerned with capitalizing on the current regional issues to preserve themselves. Not only was the aim of the Arab summit not the unity of the Muslims, but it emphasized divisive issues; important points in Resolutions 598 were ignored.

Referring to issues inside Lebanon, he expressed the hope that by using all her facilities, Syria will prevent the bloody clashes between the various Muslim Lebanese groups, which are harmful to Islam and the Muslims.

Syrian Religious Trusts Minister Meets Karrubi

LD0606193190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 6 Jun 90

[Text] Mr. 'Abd-al-Majid Tarabulsi, the Syrian Arab Republic's minister of hajj and endowment [Religious Trusts], today in a meeting with Mr. Karrubi, the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Majles, conveyed the condolences of the Syrian nation and government on the anniversary demise of his eminence the imam, may he be admitted to God's paradise. He said Imam Khomeyni was not only a leader for Iran but a religious leader for the world of Islam. He managed to retain the principles of Islamic ideology in the revolution and explain Islamic realities through continuous endeavor.

Mr. Tarabulsi praised the Islamic Republic of Iran's stance on the issue of Palestine said the Zionists are afraid of the Islamic revolution because they are aware that Islam does not give in to arrogance.

Then Mr. Karrubi, announcing reciprocal condolences for the anniversary demise of Imam Khomeini, may he be admitted to God's paradise, said that his personality and his ideology belongs to all Muslims, and his passing away was a calamity for the world of Islam. Referring to the continuous emphasis placed by his eminence the imam on the support for the people of Palestine, he said: In the struggle against Zionists, Muslims' unity has been among the slogans always used, and is among the principle duties laid down by the late imam.

At the end, the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Majles expressed the hope that mutual ties between the two brother countries of Iran and Syria expand day by day.

In today's meeting of the Syrian Arab Republic's minister of hajj and endowment and his accompanying delegation with the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Majles, Mr. Khatami, the minister of Islamic Culture and Guidance was also present.

Meets With Velayati

LD0606151690 Tehran IRNA in English 1346 GMT
7 Jun 90

[Text] Tehran, June 7, IRNA—Syrian Minister of Awqaf (Islamic endowments) 'Abd-al-Majid al-Tarabulsi expressed hope today that all Muslims would tread the trail blazed by the late leader of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeini. In his meeting with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, al-Tarabulsi also underlined the importance of expanding Tehran-Damascus ties in various fields. The Syrian minister is here at the head of a delegation to attend ceremonies marking the 1st anniversary of the Imam's demise.

Velayati emphasized the importance of Iran-Syria relations and their impact on regional and international developments.

Velayati Urges Amal-Hizballah Reconciliation

LD0706231190 Tehran IRNA in English 1720 GMT
7 Jun 90

[Text] Tehran, June 7, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati stated here today that the current clashes between Amal and Hizballah would only result in weakening of the Muslims and that the enemies would benefit from it.

Speaking to a group of Lebanese guests here on the occasion of Imam Khomeini's first demise anniversary, Velayati added, "in this battle, victory or defeat are terms which make no sense. I should reiterate that bloodshed is (religiously) forbidden among Muslim brothers."

He said both groups should do their best to reach a settlement as soon as possible, so that they would all be

unified in countering the plots of Israel and other enemies. Velayati added that liberating al-Quds [Jerusalem] is of prime importance in Iran's foreign policy, and "we are all for this crucial issue."

*Afghans in Iran Oppose Talks With Kabul

90AS0093B Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
28 Apr 90 p 19

[Text] During the ceremonies marking the eleventh anniversary of the communist coup (27 April) in Afghanistan, Afghani residents of Tehran in a demonstration march yesterday afternoon reaffirmed their conviction for continued resistance until the fall of the Kabul regime and the establishment of an Islamic government.

After going through several streets, marchers gathered in Palestine Circle and issued a 14 point resolution in which they announced their opposition to any political negotiations with the government of Afghanistan, while emphasizing the continuation of the struggle against the regime.

According to reports by the Islamic Republic News Agency, in this resolution all parties and Islamic groups have been asked to put aside their differences and focus all their attention and capabilities on the defense of the goals of the Islamic revolution and the establishment of an Islamic government in Afghanistan.

The Governments of Iran and Pakistan have been thanked for their support of the Afghan Mujahidin's struggle. Also, in another part of this resolution, in view of the need for an exchange of ideas and determination of common practical and intellectual positions among all combatant mujahidin, the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has been asked to invite all the heads and commanders of the Mujahidin, influential emigres, and politico-Islamic intellectuals to participate in a grand congress.

According to this report, in addition to the condemnation of any political rapprochement among the world powers in order to resolve the Afghan crisis, this resolution also condemns the meddling of America and its allies in order to prevent the establishment of an Islamic government in Afghanistan.

*ABRAR Report on 2 May Majles Session

90AS0063A Tehran ABRAR in Persian
3 May 90 pp 3, 6

[Text] *Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi: The dearly beloved personality of Motahhari prevented any deviation. It was rare and of interest in general and in particular to the imam in terms of Islamic thought.*

Parliamentary service:

The Majles held a session yesterday morning. In this meeting, which was presided over by *Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi*, the Majles speaker, honoring Teacher's Day, praised the distinguished eminence of

Ayatollah Motahhari, the revered martyr of the revolution, and declared the readiness of the Majles to solve the problems of teachers. The Majles speaker said: Teachers played a great role during the war, and moreover they prevented any sort of deviation in the trenches of school classrooms.

This report indicates that in the open session of the Majles yesterday, the general points of the bill to change the districts of Asadabad of Mobarakeh, Jolfa, and Takab to cities and divide the Aghajari district into the Districts of Omidiyeh and Aghajari was ratified.

Also in this meeting, the question of Mr. Yunes Moham-madi, the representative of Khorramshahr, to the minister of housing and urban development was discussed and responded to by Mr. Kazeruni.

The details of the discussions of the open session of yesterday's Majles follows:

**Speech of Mr. Hoseyn Mozaffari-Nezhad,
Representative of Tehran**

The first pre-agenda speaker of the Majles yesterday was Mr. Mozaffari-Nezhad, the representative of Tehran, who expressed his respect for the soul of the imam and the martyrs and, referring to the unyielding struggle of pure Mohammadan Islam against American Islam, said in regard to the article entitled "Direct Negotiations," published in ETTELA'AT:

Last Thursday [26 April], ETTELA'AT published an article entitled "Direct Negotiations." This article contained even more anti-Islamic and anti-imam's-line matters than the article by Sa'idi-Sirjani, such that news agencies have said that since the beginning of the revolution Iranian officials have never held such a position.

That article declared explicitly that the proposal of James Baker, the U.S. secretary of state, in regard to direct negotiations must be given a positive response. The writer of the article considers indirect talks with the United States to be a certainty, legitimate and ongoing, and pretends that today the problem is not for us to see whether direct or indirect negotiations are better. Hence, in several paragraphs he makes statements that I would read here if time permitted in order to clarify its nature and intent. But I will not do so and will recommend to you brothers and sisters that you read it yourselves. The first paragraph concerns Resolution 598 and the U.S. power in the Security Council. This paragraph is a full confession of the power of the American continent and declares impotence and abjectness before it. It is also in some way praise of the Great Satan and expresses our need for it in the matter of the resolution.

The second paragraph alludes to the freezing of our assets and the confiscation of our spare parts in America and in a way is a reminder of that same speech of the cursed Bani Sadr that "we are the hostage of America."

Another paragraph explicitly and disgustingly advocates submissiveness, pointing out that Iraq, by making use of

global and diplomatic resources, has tried to strengthen its military and political power and declares that the mercenary method of the dependent regime of Iraq had been successful. The article argues that this is a successful method, and our independent and revolutionary method, referred to as "playing with ice," is condemned to failure. In paragraph five, by raising the issue of reconstruction and the necessity of going through the great destruction of war, he regards success in this matter also to be dependent on relations with the United States.

The speaker added: The imam said, "Those who think the fight on the path of independence and freedom by the oppressed of the world is not contrary to capitalism and seeking comfort are ignorant of the first thing in fighting against foreigners." And he said: "The committed clerics are thirsty for the blood of the leech-like capitalists and have never reconciled, nor will they ever, with them. But, unfortunately, since the death of the imam, we have established our involvement in reconstruction on legitimizing, strengthening, and relying on capitalism and capitalists. In order to fill this well, we must stretch our needy, begging hand towards the United States."

In another part of his speech, the speaker said: When contrary to the imam's view we legitimize the capitalist system, obviously such a step will necessarily be followed by relations with the United States. Relations with the United States will be the rule of the capitalist economy. The imam frequently warned us of the fall of capitalism and communism, and we have not acted accordingly. If we do not mend our ways, this will be only the beginning of the tragedies to come.

The writer of the article continues, slandering the sacred, the prophets and those revered by God, by justifying the necessity of direct talks with the United States, referring to the release of the U.S. hostages in which Syria became a star, while the role of Iran due to having no relations with the United States remains concealed. He openly expresses sorrow that the Islamic Republic has not used Syria as a model.

Our presence in the region was supposed to influence those like Syria, but now we witness such an analysis!

Mr. Mozaffari-Nezhad continued:

At the end of the article, the writer, stating that our enemies want to take this opportunity from us, acquits and absolves the United States of enmity towards the Islamic revolution, and by saying that years will pass and we shall remain in the wasteland of playing with slogans, like playing with ice, he makes all the domestic liberals and anti-revolutionaries look good by comparison.

Even though this shameless article is unmatched in kind and was unexpected and most upsetting to everyone, it is not quite unprecedented. A look at the history of this issue shows what pens and what elements prepared the grounds for the singing of such sinister songs that are out of tune with the revolution. No matter how much this group deviated from the positions of the revolution and

the imam, they did not get any positive response from the United States. On the contrary, the United States has reacted from a higher and more demanding position.

Mozaffari-Nezhad then referred to the analysis of Mr. Larijani and said: But the former deputy and present consultant to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs goes one step further and issues a religious decree that to establish relations with the United States, even if not beneficial, is a religious duty. Therefore, it is not important who takes the first step.

The issuer of this religious decree, who is today one of the advocates of close relations with the United States, also issued a religious decree a few days ago against more than 140 representatives of the Majles and regarded them as "outlaws" for having written a letter about the mercenary regime of Saudi Arabia. Of course, such religious decrees issued from a person who lived in the United States for many years and is mesmerized by the great Satan is not unexpected. What is astonishing is that after 11 years since the Islamic revolution, such individuals sit in destiny-making positions instead of the children of the revolution.

The speaker continued by referring to such actions, especially at a time when Jerusalem is recognized by the United States as the capital of Israel, and the trampling of all the values of the imam's legacy and said, here, let us hear the resonant and dignity-giving call of the imam, who said:

"I have reminded you frequently that our relationship with the United States is that of oppressed nation and world devourer."

"We shall fight the United States to the end of our lives."

"Cry out all your grievances against the United States."

"All of our problems are because of the United States."

"The United States heads the international world devourers."

"The Iranian nation stands up against the United States and will be victorious, God willing."

"The one who has committed the main treason against the country is the United States."

Mozaffari-Nezhad then referred to the statements of the grand leader of the revolution, Ayatollah Khamene'i, and said:

"It is not surprising that some of the sick, ill-intentioned, or dependent thoughts, the poison through the pen which reaches the articles and editorials of newspapers, invite the Islamic Republic to leave its revolutionary policy of fighting the United States and consider the era of the slogan of death to America to have passed."

He added: Unfortunately, this article was not written by an isolated supporter of the tyrant, but was penned by one of the vice presidents, whereas the president himself

has frequently, both before and after the elections, emphasized the perpetuation of the path of the imam and the preservation of and loyalty to the path of the imam and the revolution, and the people voted for him because of this characteristic.

He also said: But because of my respect for him, I ask the president to make the necessary and revolutionary decisions at this sensitive and destiny-making juncture and continue to keep himself free of such rumors, of which he is a natural target because of his job.

In conclusion, the speaker thanked the Hezbollah nation and the protest of the students in this regard.

Speech of 'Isa Velayi, Representative of Tehran

'Isa Velayi, the representative of Tehran, was the second speaker of the open session of the Majles yesterday. He also expressed his respect for the soul of the imam and, referring to Teachers' Day, offered his congratulations for this and for Labor Day. He then said: In the Koranic vocabulary, the political tyrant exists in the same way that the economic tyrant does. Fighting the economic tyrant is as necessary as fighting the political tyrant, because the political tyrant stifles human beings while the economic tyrant destroys them.

In another part of his speech, referring to the story of Moses, the pharaoh, and Croesus, he said: If the leech-natured Croesus, like capitalists, cannot hire individuals with money to stop their tongues, they remove them from the scene with the tongue, the pen, the accusations, and the labels of the ones they hire. Otherwise, they cannot protect their material interests.

The representative of Tehran then protested the distortion of his statements in one of the Tehran evening newspapers and added:

RESALAT, which appears to have no mission but distortion and spreading rumors, is a good tool for implementing such objectives. In my speech on 28 February 1990, after mentioning the disruptive actions of the leech-natured capitalists against the government of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, I said, "Fortunately, the honorable president, by giving a free hand to such leech-natured people, has proven their false claims and has refuted the thesis of their supporters." Did you see how they distorted my statement, saying that I called the president leech-natured. Of course, in order to keep the newspaper and its operations safe from the pressure of public opinion, they distorted the issue in this way. They quoted "Don't pray" [Arabic phrase] and intentionally omitted "while you are drunk" [Arabic phrase]. Unfortunately, even though the grand leader of the revolution had instructed that statements of disunity should not be said or written, from that day to today, that newspaper has spread rumors against me under various pretenses on four occasions, publishing lies. Because we did not have the power to buy off this Croesus, we complained to the judicial branch. After the third time and the completely false article, I wrote a letter to the newspaper and declared that if they continue this practice and

do not stop the nonsense, I will have to defend myself. But for the fourth time, I noticed that most shamelessly I was attacked by a person whose actions since the beginning of the revolution have not been unknown to anyone with a bit of political sense, in that he conspired in any arena that he entered. Because this newspaper did not stop the lies, naturally I will talk to the people in my own defense and warn them that if this newspaper and its supporters and operators do not stop publishing slander, rumors, and nonsense, I shall expose everything and show the lying and treacherous faces of the allies of these leech-natured ones, which shall certainly not please a lot of people.

The Pre-agenda Speech of Mr. Mahmud Niazi, Representative of Bijar

The last pre-agenda speaker of the open session of the Majles yesterday was Mr. Mahmud Niazi, who expressed his respect for the soul of the great leader of the revolution. He referred to teachers' day and the martyrdom of Professor Motahhari and said: I congratulate the teachers, the professors, the students, the scholars, and the God-seeking nation on this blessed day. Today, it is necessary for the policy makers of the Islamic Republic to devote a great portion of the national resources to education and academic and research centers. By investing in this sector, not only can we safeguard the goals, the foundations, and the fruits of the revolution from being robbed by corruption, destruction, and all the ignorant manifestations of the masters of gold, force, and trickery, but we can show it to the whole world as a model of a progressive Islamic nation in all its dimensions.

The speaker then referred to world Labor Day and said: Congratulations to the faithful and committed workers on labor day, those whose calloused hands have earned the sacred blessing of the grand Prophet of Islam and eternal dignity for themselves. Your Labor Day is worth all the lives of the capitalists and feudal landlords.

Mr. Niazi then said: Economic problems, most of which unfortunately are due to the war and some of which are due to incompetence and narrow-mindedness, are still among our chief domestic problems. These problems have two causes, one being the grounds which have been created in the economic system, the increase in cash flow, the deficiency in the gross national product, the increase in the government debt to the Central Bank, the population increase, and so on, and another is the leech-like parasites who in their parasitic growth and feeding on the economic blood of the country are busy accumulating wealth. One of the major causes of the lack of success in resolving the economic problems is dealing with one of the two above-mentioned factors, that is, with the leech-like parasites in the form of slogans. The proposal to punish the economic terrorists and disruptions, which has now been presented to the Majles, may be a tool for confronting the economic problems, but it is by no means enough, and policies made by the powerful and popular government may dry up this parasitic swamp and must be defended.

In this connection, the speaker referred to the statements of Hojjat ol-Eslam Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni and said: The execution and whipping of a number of people who deserve to be punished will only punish them for their heinous acts. Of course, the cure to the pain of our economic problems is production and insistence on policies made in this direction, especially under conditions in which the harsh political winds will not shake it.

In another part of his speech, the representative of Bijar thanked the president and the Cabinet for their attention to the Province of Kordestan and said: The loyalty of the people of Kordestan to the regime of the Islamic Republic requires the government of Mr. Hashemi to take steps more than ever before in regard to providing industrial and agricultural units.

In conclusion, the representative of Bijar spoke about the problems and difficulties of his constituency and asked the officials to pay attention to them.

The Majles Speaker's Speech

After the pre-agenda speakers, Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi, the Majles speaker, referred to the anniversary of the martyrdom of Professor Motahhari and, honoring the day and week of teachers, said:

Following the speeches of several representatives, the Majles speaker spoke about Teachers' Day and the anniversary of the martyrdom of Professor Motahhari and said:

Teachers' Day and the anniversary of the martyrdom of the revered professor, the high-statured philosopher, the beloved religious jurist and researcher, the rare Islamicist, the Islamic thinker, the fruit of the imam's life, the revered martyr Ayatollah Morteza Motahhari, is 2 May. Since the beloved personality of Motahhari prevented any sort of deviation and in terms of rare Islamic thought he was generally and personally noted by the imam, he was extraordinarily fond of the imam and his idea. The enemy could not tolerate the life of such a personality. Professor Motahhari rendered very great cultural and revolutionary services to the country, Islam, and the revolution.

One of the factors in the entry of religion to the universities at that black period of strangulation and anti-Islamic propaganda was the late martyr Motahhari. With his speeches and presence in the classrooms and with his pen, he was able to attract a great portion of the forces who were ready. He was a man of holy war, struggle, the pen, and ideas. We all know well how much the imam valued the ideas of Mr. Motahhari and how fond he was of him. Earlier, when this lofty personality was attacked by the deviants and the liberals, the imam strongly supported him from Najaf. And when individuals were given audience and asked questions, the imam referred them to Mr. Motahhari, particularly in scientific, social, and political matters. The imam's statement upon his martyrdom that he is the fruit of his life was quite well-known among the supporters and devotees of the

imam during the period of strangulation. Precisely at the time when he was attacked and the poisonous propaganda was spread against him, the imam sent such a message, which was: He is the fruit of my life. Whenever anyone went to Najaf to speak to the imam about problems, the imam sent them to Mr. Motahhari. What the imam said about his writings and books I do not know of his having said about anyone else. He said: His writings are useful and free of any deviation. For this reason, since the enemy knew of the value and greatness of Mr. Motahhari's work, in a treacherous conspiracy, they took his beloved being from us and he was martyred. His pen was stained with his blood for the greatness and grandeur of our beloved Islam. Now we witness a void that has been created because of his loss which was not filled. His valuable work did not continue, and this is an irreparable damage to us.

May the memory of this revered martyr be honored. Once again I offer my congratulations and condolences to the Hezbollah nation, the grand leader, and his beloved family.

Teachers have played a great role in advancing the revolution and serving the sacred regime of the Islamic Republic. It is enough that the imam has termed the teaching profession as the profession of the prophets, in connection with educating and cleansing human beings.

We now witness and see various organizations of the regime of the Islamic Republic making use of these beloved teachers.

We witnessed during the war what a great role the beloved teachers played in keeping the fronts active: their presence and that of their students on the fronts and their service to the revolution and the war with the very small salaries they made, and their very valuable actions in the service of the revolution. And now, as well, they are protecting the stronghold of the classrooms and the educational centers well, especially the faithful forces and the Hezbollah and revolutionary teachers who follow the imam's line, standing up against the deviations of the heathen groups and protecting these great and vital centers of the revolution. We ask God for their success and congratulate them. I tell all the beloved teachers, as you have known and witnessed so far, that the Majles, which is a revolutionary assembly on the path of the imam, is ready for any sort of cooperation to solve the problems of the teachers and the problems of education, to help them serve better with more capability and with a free hand in this sacred stronghold.

The Majles speaker said: Our dear ones know in the five-year plan what value has been placed on and resources provided for education. The dear teachers and our educational system know that in the 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991] budget, 30 percent of the budget has been allocated to education. They know that every proposal and bill that is offered to the Majles that is beneficial for education and the teachers, the representatives have generously and unquestioningly ratified,

with the necessary care. I find it necessary to thank the Majles, the education committee, and particularly about 80 teachers who are in the Majles and who worked hard to provide more resources for teachers.

As you gentlemen know, in connection with the welfare issues, the land and budget for materials have been allocated for them. God willing, it will be implemented and some of their problems will be resolved. Hence, again I congratulate these dear ones on this day, and we honor the memory of all the martyred teachers and greet their magnificent souls, especially the great teachers, Martyr Motahhari, Martyr Bahonar, Martyr Raja'i, and other beloved teachers who were martyred and performed their duty and responsibility proudly and well. Incidentally, I thank the media and the Voice and Vision for the programs I saw in connection with teachers' day, which were very good and well performed, giving the teachers their due.

In conclusion, the Majles speaker said: We were informed that the father of our beloved colleague and our fellow combatant during the time of oppression, Hojjat ol-Islam val-Moslemin Mr. Sa'idianfar, the honorable representative of Khomeynishahr, has passed away and received God's blessing. I offer condolences to this dear brother on behalf of all the representatives.

Following his speech, the Majles speaker read the reminders of the representatives to the executive officials of the country. Then the Majles went into session and the report on the first round of discussions of the council's committee and the internal affairs committee concerning the bill to change the districts of Asadabad, Meybod, Mobarekeh, Jolfa, and Takab to cities and divide the district of Aghajari into the Districts of Omidyeh and Aghajari, which was continued from the previous session, was discussed. After the statements of the opponents and the supporters, it was put to a vote and the single article was ratified.

The second item on the agenda of the open session of the Majles was the report on the first round of discussions of the health and welfare committee about the legislative proposal to exempt the oral and dental health workers and medical workers (health technicians and those fighting diseases) from military service, of which an urgency one motion was ratified by the representatives on 22 April 1990.

In this connection, several representatives spoke in opposition and support, and it was put to a vote and ratified.

This report indicates that in this meeting the question of Yunes Mohammadi, the representative of Khorramshahr, to the minister of housing and urban development was discussed. The representative of Khorramshahr said: For some time now, the reconstruction of Khorramshahr has been under way, and the suffering refugee inhabitants are most eagerly returning to reconstruct the ruins made by the enemies of the Islamic revolution. But their hope has turned to despair, because due to the supreme council of urban development's failure to

approve the comprehensive plan of the city, they cannot take any steps in reconstruction, resolving the problems, and responding to the demands of the people. What is the reason for the delay in approving the comprehensive plan of Khorramshahr in the supreme council of urban development, given the importance of the matter?

Then Mr. Kazeruni, the minister of housing and urban development, responded to the question, and the explanations were determined to be satisfactory.

Sri Lanka

Cease-Fire Deadline Passes; Fighting Continues

Rebels Intensify Fighting

BK1306070890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0656 GMT
13 Jun 90

[Text] Colombo, June 13 (AFP)—The deadline for implementation of cease-fire between Tamil rebels and the Sri Lankan Government expired Wednesday with rebels intensifying fighting, officials said. Hundreds of government troops were being rushed in to the conflict amid reports of two more police station being taken over by the rebels.

Military officials here said earlier that rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) began pounding three Army camps in the east of the country early Wednesday after scaling down their attacks Tuesday night [12 June]. Colombo and the LTTE agreed to a cease-fire by noon (0630 GMT) Wednesday after talks in the rebel stronghold of northern Jaffna on Tuesday.

The officials said earlier that more troops were being rushed to the area while the Navy was "on standby" and the Air Force gave cover for troop movements.

The Tigers launched a full-scale attack on government troops on Monday [11 June], officials said.

LTTE Attacks, Casualties Reported

BK1306083590 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English
0746 GMT 13 Jun 90

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, June 13 (LANKAPUVATH)—Twenty-five LTTE cadres, including some of its military cadres, were killed in abortive attacks on an Army camp in eastern Sri Lanka, official sources told LANKAPUVATH. They said another 100 LTTE cadres were wounded. The sources said five Sri Lankan soldiers were killed in defending their camps and 12 wounded. They said Army personnel at the Vellaveli camp, a small one which was providing security to a fishing village, had been evacuated along with the fishermen. The sources said three soldiers had been killed at Kalawanchikudi and two at Kalmunai.

The LTTE continued this morning its attacks on the Army camps at Kiran, Kalmunai, and Kalawanchikudi. The Sri Lankan security forces were successfully defending the camps. Air cover was being provided by helicopters, while the Navy was standing by.

Meanwhile, the LTTE had also taken the police stations at Valvettiturai and Point Pedro in Jaffna and the Murunkan police station in the Mannar District, in addition to the ones they have taken in the east, the sources said.

Official sources said the latest reports state the LTTE had locked up the policemen and removed their weapons at the Mannar police station, while policemen at the Vavuniya police station had gone with their weapons to the Army camp there.

100 Police Reportedly Killed

BK1306084990 Hong Kong AFP in English 0831 GMT
13 Jun 90

[Text] Colombo, June 13 (AFP)—A police officer who escaped from a Tamil rebel group fighting government troops in eastern Sri Lanka has said that the rebels killed about 100 other policemen after seizing them from their stations, officials said here Wednesday [13 June].

A senior police official said that Sub-inspector Ranaweera said the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) had taken him and more than 100 other policemen from Kalmunai and Akkaraipattu stations in Ampara District on Monday to jungles in Tirukkivil in the same district. The police officer, who made a statement to the authorities Wednesday, said then the Tigers began firing at the policemen at close range but he managed to escape with injuries, the official said. Sub-inspector Ranaweera said he believed about 100 were killed, the official said.

The English daily THE ISLAND on Wednesday quoted the police officer as saying from his hospital bed that "policemen were lined up and shot" by the Tigers. The officer heard the death cries of the policemen as he escaped from his captors and plunged into the jungle, the island said.

'Hundreds' of Reinforcements Sent

BK1306104290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1029 GMT
13 Jun 90

[Text] Colombo, June 13 (AFP)—All hopes of a cease-fire between Sri Lankan troops and Tamil rebels were dashed Wednesday [13 June] as hundreds of extra troops rushed to the east to reinforce three army camps resisting rebel attacks. Military officials said that hundreds of troops had left for the eastern districts of Batticaloa and Ampara after Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) intensified their attacks on army camps in the area. They said the rebels were making no attempt to observe a cease-fire that was to have taken effect at noon.

Informed sources said that a "war situation" had developed after the Tigers renewed attacks on the Kiran, Kalawanchikudy and Kalmunai army camps, adding that Colombo was preparing for land, sea and air assault if necessary.

As rebels continued to use mortars and rocket-propelled grenades to pound the camps, officials said three battalions of troops under the command of Major General Denzil Kobbekaduwa had been moved to the east besides the hundreds of extra troops already flown there.

Maj. Gen. Kobbekaduwa is known for leading the successful "Vadamarachchi" operation in 1987 that dealt a beating Tamil separatists before Indian peacekeeping troops flew into the island under a bilateral accord in July that year.

The official death toll stood at 16 security personnel and more than 25 Tiger militants killed but informed sources said dozens more deaths had been reported on both sides since Monday [11 June]. A police officer who escaped after being captured by the Tigers said in a statement to the authorities Wednesday that 100 other policemen were killed by the Tigers. The Tigers took up to 600 police hostages when they seized 11 of 14 police stations in the district, officials said. Military officials said that the Tigers had so far captured 17 stations after they took the Mannar and Vavuniya police posts on Wednesday. Officials said that police headquarters here was being inundated with inquiries from hundreds of relatives of policemen stationed in the east and now believed missing.

Colombo's decision to move troops came as the Tigers ignored a cease-fire agreement reached Tuesday during talks with government officials in the northern rebel stronghold of Jaffna. The truce was to take effect at noon Wednesday.

"The troops are being sent to protect the camps, but if attacked they would not hesitate to retaliate," a military official said. Officials said that helicopters and air force planes were providing cover for troop movements in the east.

The Tiger leadership could not be immediately reached for comment.

Troops also went on the alert in the rest of the country, especially in areas inhabited by the majority Sinhalese population, to avert another major communal backlash.

Thousands have been killed since an ethnic conflict between the Sinhalese and minority Tamils erupted into civil war 1983. That conflict was sparked by the killing of Sinhalese soldiers in the Tamil majority north.

200 LTTE 'Militants' Said Killed

*BK1306112990 Colombo International Service
in English 1045 GMT 13 Jun 90*

[Excerpt] Unofficial sources said that around 200 LTTE militants had died following the attack by the organization on police stations in the eastern province. The LTTE action in the province has been condemned by other Tamil groups.

In a statement, the TELO [Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization] said yesterday that the armed action by the LTTE in the Eastern Province was totally unwarranted. The general secretary of TELO, G. Karunakaran, MP [member of Parliament], said the conflict created by the LTTE when efforts are underway to find a political solution to the ethnic crisis was totally unacceptable.

The PLOTE [People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam] organization in a statement has also condemned the LTTE attack on police stations in the Eastern Province.

Minister of Plantation Industries and State Minister of Defense Ranjan Wijeratne said in Parliament last evening that the incident in the eastern province is not a confrontation between the Sinhalese and Tamils, but a conflict which surfaced due to the actions of a small group of criminals. The minister has appealed to the Sinhalese people to act with restraint and to permit the security forces and the police to take necessary action in this situation. The minister appealed to the public to safeguard the Tamil population as they had done so thus far, and not take any impulsive action. Mr. Ranjan Wijeratne said in Parliament that the government is taking action to find a permanent solution to the problem. [passage omitted]